

OLIVIA HONEY Demotape

There is a new record label out! Yeah, I know that it sounds as exciting to say there's a baby born somewhere in a hospital but it's my job to inform you about that. The label is called "Planet Boo" and despite its title it has nothing to do with the Boo Radleys, but a label based on a zine with the same name. It's a zine that likes France Gall, Nancy Sinatra and Mono...so no wonder they love POP!!! The first signings are Olivia Honey and I already have to say that they are not a real band. There are 12 people involved but so far they never met each other, they write songs by posting a dictaphone to one another. Still don't know if they're trying to cheat me (...it all sounds a bit too perfect to be recorded that way, but if it's so...then I'm speechless). Olivia Honey captures that Teen-C spirit thing (kitschy music that simply sounds irresistible because it's so effective) and music that's been made by the greatest crooners on earth (remember what The All Seeing I have done!). This was a sort of advancetape I got as by now there should be a whole CD-album called "Tiny Dream" available. Cheesy music and I bet they kind of worship Neil Diamond in his glitter suit, but that is pop too... Jarvis, you have some concurrenents!!! (CONTACT : PLANET BOO COMMUNICATIONS, 41 BRAETONGUE, TONGUE, BY LAIRG, SUTHERLAND, IV27 4XN, U.K.)

TRICKY DICKY Yow bin dickt (Mini-CD)(Own Release)

They might be dressed as lunatics (well, they say themselves that they wear clothes which even charityshops would refuse!) but that's cos they're a fun band, anyone with a great ego will be kicked out completely! Tricky Dicky are a bit of a household name for venues who wanna organise a party, apart from covers (they even do play "Girls on film" by the mighty Duran Duran) they also play lots of self-penned songs and it's like Tricky Dicky wanna combine glampop from the 70's (Garry Glitter, The Sweet, Slade...) with fast punk 'n roll à la Buzzcocks. By times it's like your dad has put an old Shakin' Stevens record on the stereo so you better aren't that critical when you listen to Tricky Dicky! But hey, music isn't maths!!! When I was a kid I was the happiest person when "Wonderbar" by Tenpole Tudor made it to N°1, twenty years later I'm happy to hear a band sing "Ahoy, Ahoy, Jolly Roger-oooo!!!" in a sort of Rubettes-melody ("Sugar Baby Love" rules!!!!). Now, where's my beer??? (CONTACT : TRICKY DICKY, C/O TREV WILKINS, 108 GREENFIELDS CRESCENT, SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE, TF11 8EG, U.K.)(E-mail : trev@tricky.freeseerve.co.uk)



NEEDLE Needle (CD)(Own Release)

It looks like the choice of naming Jeremy C. Otsap's one man band Needle is more than effective, Needle's music feels like a needle...just like they have injected something in your body. Due to its industrial breaks this music will be compared to the likes of Nine Inch Nails and Marilyn Manson as it's sort of music that looks ugly on the outside but reveals some beauty after having played it several times. Despite the comparison with Marilyn Manson, this is not an overacted bunch of weirdos but the work of someone who has created this in his room with the computer as only mate. Some songs are sounding a bit too much like half ideas, but there are tracks on here (especially the wonderful horror-epic "Painless Night") that go straight into your body, the after-effects aren't that healthy but the trip was more than worth it... Remember it are those ghosthouses which are most scary that you wanna revisit... (CONTACT : NEEDLE, C/O JEREMY C. OTSAP, 6308 W. 89th ST STE 176, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045, USA) (<http://home.earthlink.net/~otsap/hellpage.htm>)



JOHNSON Blonde on blue (7'inch)(Play Records)

Where are those old family pictures that graced those Johnson-singles? I mean, this is the fourth single of one of my fave unsigned bands and the covers were a bit typical Johnson-like (old pictures from granddad or an aunt...) and now they're gone! But hey, it's only a cover!!! The music is still there! Typical Johnson-music...trumpets that open their melodramatic songs, songs that are already classics... What more can I say? I really can't repeat it over and over that they're the perfect missing link between Teardrop Explodes and Scott Walker, can I? No, the band will hate me if I keep on doing this and I don't want to be hated by one of the best bands of the moment. Perfect record to end this issue... (CONTACT : PLAY RECORDS, 1/R 9 HAMPDEN TERRACE, MOUNT FLORIDA, GLASGOW, G42 9XQ, U.K.)

The original SIN

THIS FANZINE WILL MAINLY
FEATURE BANDS THAT AREN'T
PICKED UP BY THE BIG PRESS
YET... SO THERE'S A LOT TO DISCOVER

N° 29

WAVE / GOTH / INDIE / PUNK / EBM / ...

FREE



KIRLIAN CAMERA

SIEG HEIL...AND OTHER STORIES

Hello dear readers,
just at the moment Adolf Hitler is slightly become a Hollywood-figure the new Führer has stand up, and in fact we have to be grateful as it opened the eyes of many that there is always a danger that history might repeat itself. And yet I think we're all a bunch of hypocrites! Suddenly the whole world is blaming Austria for being a neo-nazi country but that's a very false thought. Not only it was still a minority (albeit an important one) that voted for Jorg Heider but let's be honest, it could have happened in any other country and not in the least in my own country where Vlaams Blok (that's the extreme right political party of Belgium) is becoming the biggest one and if their leader would have become prime minister then I'd be insulted if the whole world would say : 'Hey you're Belgian so you're a fascist!' and I think it's very wrong to isolate the whole country as you're mistreating the whole population...and let's not forget that more than 70% of it has nothing to do with their racists thoughts!

So if I read that a band like Embrace refusing to play in Austria then I have two opinions. One is "God, I wish I was an Austrian so those boring dadrockers won't play here" and second one is : what are you trying to prove? If the hundreds Embrace-fans you have over there are anti-Heider then it's your fucking duty to play there. But as they don't sell any records these days, they think it's a better publicity-stunt to tell the world how right their political minds are. I'm wondering if they would obtain the same attitude if they were big sellers over there! (I guess it's like that as in Belgium no one cares about Embrace, and thank God for that!).

It's not in such a way that you're changing the minds of those who think people are bad cos they have a different colour of skin. Racism is bad but in the end we're all racists, it's just something that is typical for mankind. You think I'm joking? I'm not... We're all so jealous of each other, therefore we start to create groups. Groups that can be based on million things : a sort of music you like (put a die-hard mod and a die-hard metalfan into one room and see what happens!), religion, the amount of money you earn at the firm you work at (labourers and staffpeople aren't best friends, believe me!), the sort of cars you drive with (BMW-drivers are so much better than those who own a Lada!), the type of clothes you wear... Just name it! And no I'm not a saint either as I'm aware that I do things as such.

Of course if you're a political leader it wouldn't be very clever to say : "Vote for me as I say that all those who drive a BMW are humiliating us, so they can leave our country!". It'd be a very funny thing to see but it would not get you that much votes! So they're opting to choose a sort of black sheep and sadly enough it's people who are different from us. In the Middle Ages it were those who refused to obey the rules of The Church, in the 30's it were the Jews and now it's against those who once were our guests! Those who believe that racism (in any form) will ever go away are maybe people with a healthy form of rationalism but they're a bit too much daydreamers as well. Mind you, I hate saying this as it'd be great if this world could be paradise...but hey, it's not and it never will be. And I also hate it that people are excluding those who search their luck into right-wing parties. Of course we're talking about opinions and not actions... I mean if you beat up a homo then you're not a racist, but a criminal...simple as that! But if it happens that friends are attracted to racist opinions from political parties then there has to be place for discussion. Stuff like "Why?" or "Do you think it will make you more luckier?"... Of course I may not be the victim of being a daydreamer myself, but I'm convinced that it helps more than saying : "Ah, Austria is the new Third Reich...let's isolate them so they know how much we hate them" as that is completely the same as Jorg Heider is doing. And by such a way of reasoning you're only putting yourselves into categories from which one day you'll be the victim from. I hate it when it happens in music, so why should I tolerate it in the social forms of life? Think about it, talk about it...and don't be stupid as that is what they want you to be...

THE ORIGINAL SIN,
C/O DIDIER BECU,
JOZEF GUISLAINSTRAAT 6, 9000 GENT,
BELGIUM

SINT JAMES INFIRMARY

ADDRESS : SINT JAMES INFIRMARY
C/O FIRST CHURCH OF CANNY LAD,
1 (A) SEVENTH AVENUE, ASHLINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE63 0QE,
U.K.
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I hate the term 'intelligent pop' but I use it so often myself that it feels like it exist. With 'intelligent pop' I usually mean music that it is so good that it reaches the perfection and through this it got ignored, that it turns out to be the sort of band that is known by an elite. Yeah, I'm aware that this really stinks and that there's a sort of snobism in here...but it's not my fault these bands are brilliant and at the same time obscure. If you're into bands like The Nectarine N°9, Subway Sect, I Ludicrous, The Bitter Springs, Television Personalities, Wire and The Fall then you know what I'm talking about and getting into Sint James Infirmary will bring a smile of happiness upon your face... HELLO, WHO ARE SINT JAMES INFIRMARY?

Basically, it's just myself, G. W. Long, in the same way that The Divine Comedy is Neil Hannon. On record I play most of the instruments and that and the rare live show I get friends in to help out. I REALLY WAS AMAZED BY YOUR SOUND AND NOT IN THE LEAST BY THE LYRICS! THEY ARE NO POETRY OR SO BUT DIRECT MESSAGES THAT ARE THROWN RIGHT IN THE FACE! I GUESS YOU HATE MOST OF THE LYRICS OF CURRENT BANDS, NOT?

I've always preferred songs with intelligent, narrative lyrics, but after singing that, I'll sing along with "Louie Louie" and "Wooly Bully" with extraordinary gusto.

YOU ALSO SEEM LIKE A BAND WHO IS DOING THEIR OWN THING, NO COMPROMISES AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT ALL SO STRONG. DO YOU HAVE A SORT OF RULES FROM THINGS YOU NEVER WILL DO IN TERMS OF GAINING SUCCESS?

We do our own thing not really because of any strong principles but mainly because no-one else is interested in it. If George Lucas turned up at my flat with an offer of doing the Episode 2 soundtrack, I would certainly make him a cup of coffee.

WHAT EXACTLY MADE YOU START THE BAND AND HOW DO YOU REGARD YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

The band, or at least the name, has been going since 1982, which will give you an idea of how old I am. The career so far is not really a career. It's just done to clear my head of all these songs I write.

YOUR FIRST ALBUM 'INFAMY' IS PRESSED ON 10 COPIES...EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING BUT I THINK THINGS LIKE THAT ARE A BIT LIKE A CRIME, DON'T YOU THINK?

"Infamy" was just a small pressing I did for friends and a collection of some 4-track recordings. Those who have heard it think it is a real crime.

THE FACT THAT YOUR BAND IS A BIT IGNORED, DO YOU SEE ANY REASONS IN THIS OR IS IT SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU AT ALL?

The band is ignored because a) we're far from the centre of the music business and b) because I'm too lazy to promote myself.

SOME OF YOUR SONGS HAVE APPEARED ON FLEXIS AND TAPES BY FANZINES, I SUPPOSE YOU THINK ZINES ARE IMPORTANT TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNKNOWN TALENT, NOT?

Much more so than the music press, but unfortunately not so powerful.

I HAVE A REAL STRANGE OPINION ABOUT BRITAIN... SOMEWHERE YOUR COUNTRY RELEASED THE BEST BANDS THERE ARE BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE HYPING THE MOST SHITTY BANDS EVER. SO WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE BRITISH MUSICSCENE?

I read the NME and Melody Maker and find about 1 item of interest. You can read pages and pages about Gay Dad when the most important band in Britain is Belle & Sebastian. IT PROBABLY HAS BEEN ASKED BEFORE, BUT ST. JAMES INFIRMARY ISN'T THE MOST USUAL NAME FOR A BAND. FOR REASONS I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT ALWAYS MAKES ME THINK OF ASYLUMS!!!

St. James Infirmary is an old blues song about a man going to see the corpse of his lover, laid out on a slab in a hospital. This is the vision we offer our audience.



THINK ROCK GAYED BY BEST FRIENDS LATER

AS EARLIER SAID YOUR LYRICS ARE QUITE IMPORTANT AND THEY ARE SOUNDING LIKE A REAL CYNIC VIEW ON THE WAY OF LIFE... DO THEY REFLECT YOUR OWN PERSONALITY OR ARE THEY JUST SOME KIND OF TALES?

Much of my songs are stories. The lp I have recorded, "Ashington", is a selection of stories about one town, watched over with a world weary eye. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LIKE THE FALL IN A MUSICAL WAY, BUT JUDGING YOU ON TWO SONGS I SOMEWHERE DO THINK YOU ARE THE SORT OF BAND WHO HAS THE SAME ATTITUDE. Respect-ah to The Fall-ah.

IT'S A CLICHE TO ASK...BUT HOW DOES A ST. JAMES INFIRMARY-SONG GET BORN? I MEAN, IS IT LIKE AN IDEA THAT IS BUILT UP IN YOUR HEAD OR IS IT LIKE A SORT OF INSTANT WONDER THAT IS CREATED IN VERY SHORT TIME?

The songs are hard crafted by skilled artisans in a sweet shop in Taiwan, then smuggled into Britain in diplomatic mail.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY... Too difficult...but here's some! "Ambition" by Subway Sect, "Jilted John" by Jilted John, "God only knows" by The Beach Boys, "Passionate Friend" by Teardrop Explodes... There are so, so many that make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

WITH WHO WOULDN'T YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

I refuse to answer that question under the fifth amendment.

LONDON : HEAVEN OR HELL?

Great place to shop, shite place to live.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND FOR ASKING THIS...BUT I NOTICED YOU HAVE DONE A SPLIT-SINGLE WITH THE LAVENDER FACTION WHO ARE EXTREMELY UNDERRATED, ISN'T THERE A DANGER THAT ST. JAMES INFIRMARY ALSO WILL BE IGNORED FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS? We think we will be ignored for all the right reasons.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE (OR HOPING TO ACHIEVE) WITH DEDICATING YOUR LIFE TO RELEASE MUSIC?

I just would like to be in the position where I can let people hear the songs. To be as big as The Pastels would more than satisfy.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE BAND IN THE FUTURE?

Hopefully the lp will be out soon on Sound Archive, once the money can be found. I'm putting together a live band to play some concerts around that time.

DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?

Punk Rock (saved my best friend's life), which is our single, is available on mail order from the above address for 3 British pounds p&p included. Please buy one and make me happy.



CUBAN BOYS

ADDRESS : THE CUBAN BOYS,
CHIPPING HOUSE COTTAGE,
HESKED LANE, CHIPPING, LANCS, PR3 2TH,
U.K.

Dreams do still exist! Yeah, and this time it's official! In the summer of 1999 I received a demo from The Cuban Boys and just like other zine-eds I couldn't believe my ears as this was something completely new. They ignore all the poprules and the result is the most poppy thing you can ever imagine! Everything which got in their hands ends up being sampled (from the famous South Park-catchphrase "Oh my God!, they killed Kenny!" to weird banjorock). They come up with a sort of Kylie Minogue karaoke-version from "Self Esteem" by The Offspring and there is only one band who can handle this : The Cuban Boys!!! I simply knew they were destined for great things...and look, six months later they are signed on EMI and their debutsingle (if you don't count their limited CD-single on Org) landed straight into the British Top 10. Popstars!!! Well, maybe in terms of sales but they still have an undergroundheart and one of the members, Ricardo Autobahn (what a name!) had no problem to do an interview with us! who could have believed it that once the future was on EMI! Not me!!!



HELLO, WHO ARE THE CUBAN BOYS OR IS THAT A SECRET?

We are Ricardo Autobahn (electronics), Skreen B (cybernetics), Jenny McLaren (histrionics) and B.L. Underwood (acoustics).

WHAT OBSESSION DO ENGLISH BOYS LIKE YOU HAVE WITH CUBA?

Nothing. The name is derived from our obsession with cubes.

IT'S DEFINITELY SO THAT THE CUBAN BOYS ARE THE BIG TALK OF THE UNDERGROUNDSCENE. SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF IT, SOME OF THEM EVEN THOUGHT YOU WERE A MANUFACTURED BAND...SO WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

We are a manufactured band in the sense that we organise division of labour between us. But we're by no means just a front for a svengali producer. Indeed, every single aspect of a Cubans record is created and constructed by ourselves. We produce, engineer, mix and remix everything we do.

AND THEN IT HAPPENED...SIGNED ON EMI! WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST THOUGHT WHEN YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE SIGNED ON EMI?

Drunken joy. One of our first reactions was to raid EMI's back catalogue. Now, six months later, we sit back and think 'We're on EMI!!!'. How did that happen?

EMI ALSO INDICATES CHARTSUCCESS, OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY HOPE, IS CHART-SUCCESS SOMETHING YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

We've had it! Straight in at number 4, straight down to number 13. But only in Britain.

SO FAR NOBODY HAS SEEN PICTURES OF YOU... WILL THE CUBAN BOYS BE THE NEW RESIDENTS IN THE SENSE THAT YOU WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS?

We initially liked the idea of being faceless, but then rapidly realised that every other pop group is pretty anonymous. Who's ever seen the faces of the people who really make Vengaboys records? So it was far more radical to actually show our faces, at which point we did a photo session and are currently awaiting fame to arrive. Besides, those eyeball masks get very hot.

EVERY CUBAN BOYS-SONG HAS A DIFFERENT MUSICAL STYLE... FROM CAJUN-DANCE TO KYLIE MINOGUE TYPE OF SONGS...DOES THIS MEAN THAT EVERYTHING CAN BE POSSIBLE IN CUBAN BOYS WORLD?

Yes!!! Well, no...possibly. We'll let you know.

YOU ALSO DID A SPLENDID DISCOVERY FROM "SELF ESTEEM" BY THE OFFSPRING... ANY IDEA HOW THE BOYS WOULD REACT TO THIS?

The Offspring have said it "sounds like Bronski Beat", but that they'd like to work with us. What they don't realise is that our version is probably more "punk rock" than theirs, due to being recorded on a 4-track in a garage.

I ALSO SUPPOSE THE CUBAN BOYS ARE SAMPLING A LOT... MUSICIANS WHO DO SO, OFTEN HAVE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AS SOME ACCUSE THEM FOR BEING UNORIGINAL. SO IS IT REALLY HARDER TO DEFEND MUSIC LIKE THIS?

What we actually say is this : it's far harder to sample something and get it to fit within the tempo, pitch and framework of a desperate piece of music than it is to actually write a new song from scratch, which is very easy. And it's a nightmare getting clearance...

NOT ONLY IS 'I LIKE EVERYBODY' MY FAVE CUBAN BOYS-SONG BUT IT ALSO LANDED UP IN MY TOP TEN OF 1999. THERE IS SUCH A BIG CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TITLE (OPTIMISTIC) AND IT'S DEPRESSING SOUND. IS THERE ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND IT?

Thank you for liking it! At some point we'll let the world hear the original record we sampled. It's also called "I like everybody" and is an easy-listening record from the 60's by The King Brothers. We stuck it through a vocoder, and created the robotic classic you know and love.

IF I SAY "I LIKE EVERYBODY" IS THE BEST KRAFTWERK-SONG SINCE "COMPUTER LOVE", DO YOU THINK THAT'S KIND OF FLATTERING?

It would be, but Kraftwerk have only released one album since then, and it wasn't very good. Now, the best Kraftwerk record since "Radioactivity", that would be better...

HOW'S IT WITH FORTHCOMING RELEASES? LIKE, WILL THERE BE AN ALBUM OR SO IN THE FUTURE?

Yes...subject to sample clearance...expect a release in 2010.

HOW LONG HAVE THE CUBAN BOYS BEEN GOING?

We made the decision to officially form the band on the 2nd of July 1998.



Prior to then we'd all been making obscure records under a variety of pseudonyms... Spray, God/Monster, Blu Thunder... IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM... ALL THE BANDS I'M IN TOUCH WITH ARE ALREADY HAPPY IF THEY CAN RELEASE A SINGLE LIMITED ON 500 COPIES ON A SMALL LABEL WHEREAS THE CUBAN BOYS IMMEDIATELY ENDED UP ON EMI.

DOES IT MAKE YOU HAPPY THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE USUAL PROCESS (...A&R, FIGHTING TO BE HEARD,...)? We've been pleased and surprised by EMI's attitude to us, by and large we're left to get on with our own devices. It's almost like being on an indie label, we're in control, musically, a lot more than we'd expected from a major. However, before this we did spend a year fighting to be heard! It's not all been the easy ride we make out. And we've all spent many, many years in struggling unsigned bands.

I KNOW THIS SOUNDS QUITE TRICKY, BUT YOUR DEBUT-EP WAS RELEASED ON ORG. IT WAS SEAN WHO MADE THE EFFORTS TO GET YOU HEARD AND NOW IT'S A MAJOR WHO'S GOING TO TAKE THE PROFITS... AREN'T THERE TIMES YOU THINK IT'S UNFAIR OR IS IT JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE?

When we did the Org single it was very much a one-off single, no long-term deal and everybody involved was aware it was such. Sean provides a great springboard for new bands, and now can claim at parties that he discovered us. We still have a good relationship with Sean, all is cool.

THE CUBAN BOYS ALSO DO USE COMBINATIONS FROM VERY UNTRADITIONAL THINGS... MIXING CAJUNMUSIC WITH EUROBEATS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE, SO SOME (I'M ONE OF THEM!) SAY THE CUBAN BOYS ARE GENIUSES. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AS GENIUS?

Good Lord, no! We fluke it, we really do. A lot of the ideas we come up with are just stupid, drunken ideas that look so bizarre nobody else would attempt them. We'll try anything, us. We've got hundreds of disastrous failed demos. WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY...

Ricardo : "The different story" by Peter Schilling which is a glorious amalgam of all the best records ever made. (WOOW!, SOMEONE WHO REMEMBERS PETER SCHILLING, READERS CHECK OUT "MAJOR TOM" BY HIM!!!-ed.)

Skreen : "Down in the park" by Tubeway Army...glorious synths & wonderful words

Jenny : "From out of nowhere" by Faith No More...just a fantastic song, makes me want to get up and dance.

Blu : "Windowlicker" by Aphex Twin...some psyche maneling noise nonsense. WITH WHO WOULDNT YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

We fear elevators. We use the stairs. We've met many stars on the stairs such as : Sparks, Eiffel 65 (????-ed.) and SClub7. Ermm...that's it...

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE CUBAN BOYS IN THE FUTURE?

Flop records and a descent into alcoholism.

DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?

Hello readers! This is a great fanzine and Didier is a great editor. Send him all your money!

WHAT A GOOD ADVICE, MR. AUTOBAHN!!!

MEW

ADDRESS : EXLIBRIS,
KLAREBODERNE 3, 1001 COPENHAGEN K,
DENMARK
(Internet : E-mail : Rikke_Rask Gyldendal.dk)

Take a boat and let me take you to Denmark! Not to visit the touristic high-lights but to discover one of the bitter-sweetest indiepopbands of the moment. I'm talking about Mew...! Their album "A triumph for man" makes you forget the tears you've cried because of the gap the Boo Radleys left since they split up. Time to do the interrogationtest!!!

HELLO, WHO ARE MEW?

A bunch of people in Copenhagen who enjoy playing and writing songs.

IS THERE ANY MEANING BEHIND THE BAND'S NAME?

Yes.

YOUR ALBUM "A TRIUMPH FOR MAN" IS CONSIDERED BY ME AS A SORT OF UNKNOWN PEARL AS MEW ARE CREATING AN UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE. HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR MUSIC? JUST MUSIC OR IS THERE LOTS MORE BEHIND IT?

When you listen to our music you walk into a room and we take care of you, but we may torture you a bit as well. I've had people come up to me and say that our music makes them feel less alone.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND (ESPECIALLY AS IT'S FLATTERING MEANT) BUT YOUR MUSIC HAS A SHOGAZINGSOUND AND THEN IN PARTICULAR A BAND LIKE THE PALE SAINTS. WERE THEY EVER AN INFLUENCE, AND IF NOT...WHO THEN?

The Pale Saints were never an influence. Never heard the band until recently. Bands like The Swirlies were definitely an inspiration. It's hard to say really. The members listen to different music.

IS "TRIUMPH FOR MAN" A RESULT FROM MANY YEARS WORK OR HAS IT ALL HAPPENED IN VERY SHORT TIME? The songs were written from 1994 through 1997 so I suppose it was a long process.

I UNDERSTOOD YOU'RE QUITE KNOWN IN DENMARK.

HOW BIG IS MEW'S POPULARITY?

Not as big as you'd think. It's a small country and we don't play mainstream music.

OVER HERE MEW ARE TOTALLY OBSCURE AND IT HAS A LOT TO DO WITH MY THEORY THAT SAYS THAT IF YOU WERE A BRITISH BAND THE SITUATION COULD BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT...

I think England has a larger setup when it comes to promotion. It is unfair, isn't it?

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SAY MEW ARE A TYPICAL DANNISH BAND (WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE!!!) OR DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A BIT ON YOUR OWN IN THE DANISH MUSICSCENE?

I don't think we're typically danish. There isn't a lot of Danish music I enjoy, a few bands here and there...

THERE'S THE STORY THAT YOU WERE NOMINATED FOR A GRAMMY AWARD BUT THAT AQUA TOOK THE PRIZE... IF THINGS LIKE THESE HAPPEN, DO YOU THINK : "IN THE END THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS APPRECIATE CRAPMUSIC..." OR IS IT OK FOR YOU IF THINGS STAY LIKE THIS?

People in general like it when people spew the contents of their toilets into their ears. I don't know why it's like that. It's a mystery. Aqua's tunes can be pretty catchy, though. After all, we've all wanted to look up Barbie's skirt at one point of our life, right?

YOUR ALBUM ALSO FELT WEIRD AT TIMES... I MEAN IT TOOK ME IN A SORT OF ATMOSPHERE THAT I MOSTLY FIND IN BANDS LIKE MERCURY REV OR THE FLAMING LIPS AND I DESCRIBE THIS MUSIC AS FAIRY TALE-POP. CAN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A DESCRIPTION AS SUCH? We all like Mercury Rev a lot. I suppose we're both a bit dreamy... It's like when a paper cup is turned upside down.

I THOUGHT "I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TSIN-TSI FOR YOU" WAS A PRETTY AMAZING LOVESONG. BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS A TSIN-TSI?

A Chinese herb used to cure swellings. I think the metaphor is pretty obvious having said that.

ON THAT SAME SONG YOU ARE ALSO USING WEIRD MOOGS WHICH GIVES IT A SORT OF 80'S FEEL. WAS IT JUST FOR THAT SONG OR COULD IT BE THAT THE NEXT ALBUM WILL BE MORE LIKE THIS?

We love 80's music. The next album could very well have more of that feel, only it will be Mew-80's and not retro-80's.

WILL THERE BE A NEW MEW-ALBUM SOON?

Very soon. Honestly.

IF PEOPLE SAY YOU ARE A SHOGAZING BAND...ARE YOU FLATTERED OR IS IT SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR AGAIN?

I think we're moving away from that now, we don't want to make the same album again.

YOUR ALBUM IS CALLED "A TRIUMPH FOR MAN", WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU SEE AS A TRIUMPH? I would be lying if I claimed there wasn't some measure of irony in there...

but in real life I don't like irony. It's a way of saying "don't get too close" ...I dunno...

SOME SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE SO MUCH AFTER TRIUMPHS THAT THEY HAVE DESTROYED THE WORLD BY DOING SO... WAS THAT SOMETHING YOU HAD IN MIND WHEN WRITING THIS OR IS IT ALL ABOUT LOVE? (...ALTHOUGH LOVE CAN DESTROY YOU TOO...)

The title derives from a misunderstanding. It is also an attempt to distance ourselves from the law of Jante which is still a great factor in the mentality of our small country. But mostly it's about love, I suppose...

LOVE CAN BE BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND EVIL... SOMETIMES I'M THINKING THIS WORLD WOULD BE A LOT BETTER IF THERE WAS NO LOVE AROUND (IN TERMS OF RELATIONSHIPS!!!)... JUST A PLANET AT WHERE EVERYBODY WAS IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER BUT NOT THE USUAL RELATIONSHIP AS IT'S SUCH A HARD THING TO DEAL WITH... I WANT THE OPINION FROM MEW ON THIS!!!

You gotta have the love! The way of which you speak has been dealt with, it



didn't work out. I'll buy you a beer if we ever meet in real life, not just on paper.
 WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY...
 Mine is probably Prefab Sprout's "Jordan : the comeback". The lyrics are amazingly relevant, the production may be a little smooth but there's so much heart in that man's voice and it's honest. Stina Nordenstamm's "And she closed her eyes" is definitely up there too.
 WITH WHO WOULD'N'T YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?
 Paddy McAloon (Prefab Sprout). I would talk about life and maybe write a song with him.
 DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?
 You know I would, boy, you've really put me on the spot here...it's so hard to think of something that isn't corny. I'm gonna have to get back to you on that one...sorry!

RO-ROBOT

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 THE NETHERLANDS
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Blame it on my age but I'm terrible in love with the sound of the 80's. Twenty years later I still enjoy bands like Magazine, Wire, The Stranglers or Section 25. The reason why is quite simple, it doesn't sound manufactured at all...it's like it's recorded from the basement straight to the bottom of the heart. No studiotricks, but a heavy bass, straight drums and a voice that drives you awol. It's quite evident that in the underground this sound is still made, but Ro-Robot are surely a band that belongs to the cream of the crop of that scene. Even if they have a sound their own, it feels like their debutalbum "Land" comes over as the third Joy Division-album which never got released. Add the brilliance of the first three Wire-albums to it and you have a perfect band. And what's most stunning is that they're not from America or England, but they live in Holland. Forget all the clichés and imagine the unimaginable...one of the best bands of this century comes from Haaksbergen!!!

HELLO, WHO ARE RO-ROBOT?

Hi, Ro-Robot are Hugo, Colin and Marc respectively on bass guitar, drums/keys and guitar/vocals.

RO-ROBOT ARE FROM HOLLAND AND AS FAR AS I'M AWARE AS I'M AWARE YOU'RE COMING UP WITH A STYLE THAT IS RATHER UNIQUE, SO DO YOU THINK YOU FIT INTO ONE OF THE SCENES THAT ARE AROUND IN HOLLAND?

We are not scene-orientated actually. I don't think that there is something as a scene for the kind of music we play. Alternative music is a wide area as this zine shows. In the underground circuit there are more people who don't bother to give unknown bands a fair chance, so we try to spread our music there.

YOUR MUSIC IS CERTAINLY INSPIRED BY 80'S BANDS LIKE TELEVISION, WIRE AND JOY DIVISION... IS IT SOMETHING THAT CAME OUT OF ITSELF OR WAS IT MORE A DECIDED THING THAT YOU WANTED TO SOUND LIKE THIS?

We all come from other bands and different backgrounds. The style and inspiration really gets together from us three in the rehearsal room, so it is certainly NOT something we decided on beforehand. When we are writing music this is the product of that and we like it.

ISN'T IT SO THAT PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS TO PUT YOU IN A CATEGORY? ...NOT THAT CATEGORIES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT I ALREADY SEE JOURNOS STRUGGLING WITH THE IDEA THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE "ALTERNATIVE INDIEGUITAR" OR "NEW WAVE"... The easiest solution people have when they cannot categorize Ro-Robot is to compare us with other bands, mostly from the early 80's as you do. I think that is quite annoying sometimes, and also the music itself is downgraded because there is a lot more to discover in Ro-Robot's music. (THAT IS TRUE, BUT THEN

AGAIN COMPARING YOU TO BANDS AS SUCH IS FLATTERING AS IT ARE THE BEST BANDS OF THE WHOLE MUSICHISTORY.-ed.) On our current CD there happen to be five more or less rock-tracks, but the repertory contains more ingredients; I am talking about samples, electro-ambient influences and other (contemporary) stuff. JUST WANNA KNOW...YOUR DEMOTAPE IS CALLED 'MANNSQUIN', IS THAT A REFERENCE TO WIRE OR NOT?

No, we just liked the word. It has the impact we wanted to have together with the artwork.

WHY DECIDE TO NAME YOURSELF RO-ROBOT? I MEAN IT'S KIND OF CONFUSING AS WITH A NAME AS SUCH YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMETHING LIKE A "KRAFTWERK-SOUND" BUT IT'S GUITARMUSIC AT ITS RAWEST...

I can give tons of examples of bandnames which don't seem to cover the music style on first sight. Fact is that people create the link from the bandname to the band's music themselves, it takes time to do so. The name Ro-Robot was brought up by ourselves so it covers the feelings we have and the music we produce.

YOUR SOUND ALSO REMINDED ME OF LATE 70'S/EARLY 80'S BANDS AS RO-ROBOT'S MUSIC IS SO DIRECT... IT'S GUITARMUSIC THAT GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE BODY WITHOUT THE USE OF STUDIOTRICKS. DO YOU MISS THAT RAWNESS IN CURRENT MUSIC?

Yes, though music can touch you in different ways of course. I think it's a compliment that it goes straight into the body. When we give it too much thought we mostly end up with something which sounds too artificial so we try to determine this in the earliest stage of songwriting possible. In practice we throw away what we don't like; we don't keep a bookshelf with half-products. HOW ARE THINGS GOING SUCCESSFULLY?

There are some recordlabel people who contacted us regarding our CD "Land". Nothing is signed yet. We are short on performances; it's not easy to play a lot in the Netherlands, the club circuit does not take any chances when programming.

I'M NOT SURE BUT I SUPPOSE YOUR DEBUT CD "LAND" IS A SELFRELEASED PRODUCT, IS IT SO DIFFICULT THEN TO CONVINCE RECORDLABELS WITH SUCH GOOD MATERIAL? Our CD "Land" is 95% DIY. Only the mastering is done at a professional studio in Amsterdam. Obviously no talent scout discovered or recognized us when we made our first cassette "Mannequin", so we had to release "Land" ourselves. Even now A&R people are not reacting and just passing the CD on to each other. We have to be patient till someone shows up to whom our music will fit. MANY YEARS AGO IT WASN'T THAT DIFFICULT FOR DUTCH BANDS TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL SUCCES, BUT TODAY IT SEEMS THAT ONLY AOR-ALTERNATIVE (???) ACTS LIKE ANOUK CAN DO THIS. IS THAT SOMETHING THAT UPSETS THE BAND OR DO YOU JUST NOT CARE? We don't care about that. It is just like a totally other discipline. It is a shame though that the musicindustry is not more open-minded. In the Netherlands the music-industry is also tightly linked to the country's biggest (public) radio station.

APART FROM THE RAWNESS, RO-ROBOT'S STYLE OF MUSIC IS ALSO RATHER DOOMY...

PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SPIRIT REMINISCENT BANDS REMINDS US OF, DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

Everybody will agree that life is not very easy sometimes, and Ro-Robot's music reflects those feelings. Apart from there are lyrics about relationships we even get some humour.

IF YOU HEAR THE MUSIC, YOU AUTOMATICALLY SAY 'THEY MUST BE AN EXCELLENT LIVEBAND'... IS THERE A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RO-ROBOT ON STAGE AND RO-ROBOT ON RECORD?

On live performances the music sounds even rawer than on CD I guess.

OF COURSE I KNOW EVERYTHING IS RELATED TO MONEY, BUT IS IT RO-ROBOT'S PLAN TO CONQUER HOLLAND FIRST AND THEN THE REST OF THE WORLD? ...OR DO YOU JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT THINGS AS SUCH?

As we don't plan to conquer anything I see no relation to money. Not everything is related to money, Didier! Take this interview for instance. No money is involved or is there? HHHMM, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FIVE THOUSAND AMERICAN DOLLARS DEAL WE MADE???

I KNOW IT SOUNDS STUPID BUT THE REALITY IS THAT IT IS MUCH HARDER FOR NON-BRITISH AND NON-AMERICAN ACTS TO BREAK THROUGH SO AREN'T THERE TIMES YOU SAY : "IF ONLY WE WERE BRITISH THEN PERHAPS WE COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING..."?

I don't like so called alternative big things per definition. I liked them more when they were small acts, it's nice to



search and discover something new and thrilling. If we wanted to be a big thing we could pack our bags and go live in the U.K. We do what we do and we are not aiming for success.

TALKING ABOUT THE NEXT BIG THING... DO YOU THINK IT'S HEALTHY FOR A BAND TO GET HYPED OR ARE YOU MORE IN FAVOUR FOR THE SO CALLED "GROWING UP"-PROCESS? There is a big grey area between hyped and not-hyped. It is not matter of black and white. It is good to see that magazines and people pick up the name Ro-Robot. You have to promote the band but as soon you loose control over that, you have a big problem.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY... I asked the other band members about this question but they didn't come up with an answer, they just smiled stoical. Once a year we organize a so called Top 5-evening, when we listen to each other's fave music and a fave record of all time is even more difficult. This goes from KO & The Sunshine Band to Coil and back.

WITH WHO WOULDN'T YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN? Lancelot. (WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HIM???-ed.)

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM RO-ROBOT IN THE FUTURE? We are working on material for a full length album and looking for a record label and producer to make it even better production than "Land".

DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS? If there is anybody who wants to contact us feel free to do so...

deardarkhead

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There are bands who write songs because they wanna be part of a certain scene, while others are giving an effort to become immortal by penning down some great tunes but then you also have those bands who are only satisfied if all their songs sounds like the most beautiful epics imaginable. Deardarkhead are a band as such, some will say they're a bit wave-ish ("Disintegration" by The Cure isn't far away when hearing Deardarkhead), and others will say they are a shoegazing band (a point I can see as they sound a bit like early Ride). Anyway, make of it what you want...one thing is sure; their "Unlock the valves of feeling" is almost a perfect album. So we thought it was essential to do an interview with them, drummer Rob Weiss agreed...

HELLO, WHO ARE DEARDARKHEAD? Michael Amper (vocals, bass guitar), Kevin Harrington (guitar) and Rob Weiss (drums).

SOME OF YOUR ADMIRERS DESCRIBE THE BAND'S MUSIC AS "OCEANIC" AND I DON'T THINK I CAN SAY IT ANY BETTER...THE GUITARS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE, NOT? ANY IDEA HOW YOU WOULD DESCRIBE IT YOURSELF? A friend of ours actually started the whole oceanic thing...we live near the Atlantic Ocean and so it has become a bit of an influence, albeit subconsciously. The guitar sounds are very important to what we do since that's how most of the textures and moods are created for each song. Guitar effects are like colors in a painting, you have to know when to use a certain color... I would describe our sound as atmospheric or ethereal guitar driven dreampop. The shoegazer term applies but so does post punk, indie, etc. We try to create music with a certain vibe.

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WON'T MIND THAT I HEAR RIDE IN YOUR MUSIC. DO YOU THINK THAT WITHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF RIDE (AND OTHER SHOEGAZERS) THE SOUND FROM DEARDARKHEAD COULD BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT? Well, we are around before Ride and all the other so called shoegazer bands so they really weren't an influence... I love them of course but we were already sounding that way when Ride put their first single out.



I remember a friend buying it and coming over and playing "Drive blind" for me, he was like "this band sounds like you guys!!!". All those bands including us are about the same age and grew up listening to the same English music so I think we all arrived at a similar sound!

I HONESTLY DO THINK RIDE ARE ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE BANDS EVER...BUT IF YOU SEE THAT THEIR EVOLUTION IS BEING A COPYBAND FROM BANDS LIKE THE SMALL FACES, IS THAT SOMETHING YOU UNDERSTAND? ...I DON'T...

I think Ride were originally influenced by groups like Dinosaur Jr., The Cure, The Byrds, Jesus & The Mary Chain, Sonic Youth...at least I recall them saying that in early interviews. They were a great band but the last album was pretty weak on the whole. As for The Small Faces influence well I think that's Andy Bell really, just listen to 'Carnival Of Light', it's wearing his 60's influences on it's sleeve! In retrospect I can see that just look at his post Ride band Hurricane#1 and now he's in Oasis. It doesn't get any more Britpop.

YOU ALREADY HAVE PLAYED WITH BANDS LIKE SUPERGRASS IN THE STATES, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT EVOKED A SUCCESS FOR DEARDARKHEAD OR IS THAT BANDS LIKE THEM ARE VERY OBSCURE IN THE STATES? Supergrass are great but they only toured in the US twice as far as I know... once on their own when we opened for them and then a second time opening for The Foo Fighters. I'd say they are very obscure, which is a shame. It opened a few doors for us getting gigs but nothing really came of it. However it was a lot of fun.

THE BAND EXISTED SINCE 1998...THAT'S ALMOST 12 YEARS! WHAT HOLDS YOU TOGETHER? Sheer stupidity, stubbornness and an overwhelming love of music! We've had some lineup changes over that time but we try and keep it going because we love what we do. We all have regular jobs, because believe me : we don't make tons of cash being Deardarkhead! It's hard sometimes but it's worth it!

IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU HOW TO DESCRIBE THOSE 12 YEARS IN A SHORT WAY, HOW WOULD IT BE? I've had a lot of fun...it's what I wanted to do...and I did it! It was sometimes good and sometimes bad, but always a learning experience. Overall it's been great.

HHMMMM, I THINK DEARDARKHEAD SOUNDS LIKE AN EUROPEAN BAND...WHAT DO YOU THINK FROM THE AMERICAN MUSIC SCENE? We definitely sound influenced by English groups without a doubt... I think that's what I grew up with and what we listen to...however I think we have our own sound too...it's not Mike sings in a British accent!

DO YOU THINK MUSIC NEEDS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY? I MEAN, I HATE MARILYN MANSON BUT IF I SEE THAT THERE IS A WHOLE WITCH HUNT BECAUSE SOME SICK KIDS KILLED THEIR SCHOOL MATES, ALL I CAN DO IS SHAKE MY HEAD WITH DISBELIEF... I think music can be taken seriously, most of the time it's entertainment to most people...but I guess all art can make you think. The whole Columbine shooting was a sad affair. I don't like Marilyn Manson either, but I think a good article about that in Rolling Stone after it happened. His main point was that people today don't want to take responsibilities for their actions, they want to blame it on someone else. I agree, it's a major problem in today's world.

ONE CD IN 12 YEARS TIME ISN'T THAT MUCH. OF COURSE IT'S A BRILLIANT ALBUM BUT ISN'T IT SO THAT MONEY LIMITS THE BAND A BIT? Yes, you are correct. We'd love to do more and we always have plenty of material but lack of funds. As I said before we've had a few lineup changes and everything we do is without any help from a label. So considering we've released 2 tapes, 2 CD EP's and a full length album all by ourselves in that time, that's not too bad. Hey, look at My Bloody Valentine!

IT'S LIKE THERE IS A WHOLE DREAMPOPSCENE IN THE U.S. YOU HAVE BANDS LIKE AERIAL LOVE FEED, DEARDARKHEAD OR VAPOR TRAIL. IS IT SO THAT THE BANDS ARE IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER OR NOT? It does seem like there are a lot of American shoegazers out there! We've been on a few compilation CD's now and most of the bands are American. The U.S. is so large so there's not really a cohesive scene, but with the help of the internet I have contacted a few of the groups. I think the internet is the best tool an unsigned band can have.

I HOPE YOU GUYS DON'T MIND BUT I THINK A TRACK LIKE "SLEEP" HAS THE SAME ATMOSPHERE FROM THE "FAITH"-ALBUM BY THE CURE... (A SORT OF "ALL CATS ARE GREY" TRANSLATED IN A GUITARSOUND). CAN YOU SEE SENSE IN THIS? Don't mind at all!! "Faith" is one of my favourite Cure albums along with "17 Seconds", "Disintegration" and "Pornography". I love them all really...

Kevin wrote that one. I think it has a bit of a Cocteau Twins feel really, maybe a bit more aggressive in parts though.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY. Just one? I have a pretty big collection of cds, but here are a few : "Kind of Blue" by Miles Davis, "Loveless" by My Bloody Valentine, "Heaven Up Here" by Echo & The Bunnymen, "Revolver" by The Beatles, "Blue Train" by John Coltrane... I could go on and on...each album is perfect all the way through and has a great vibe! They all stand up well after repeated listenings and they inspire me. I'd also throw in some Cure, U2, Cocteau Twins, Pale Saints Chameleons, Lush, Adorable... OK, I'll stop!!! WITH WHOM WOULDNT YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

Let's see Jerri Ryan (from Star Trek, Voyager "please assimilate me now!"), an elevator full of Japanese school-girls, playmates Sung Hi Lee and Ally Baggett...not all at the same time mind you! What would I do? Everything repeatedly!!! THE TITLE OF YOUR ALBUM "UNLOCK THE VALVES OF FEELING" WAS A SUGGESTION MADE BY IAN MASTERS FORMERLY OF THE PALE SAINTS. ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH IAN THEN? We had "a name our CD" contest, and his was the title we liked the best...it just fit with the songs on the CD. I've been friendly with him since Pale Saints toured with Ride years ago. My friend interviewed the band and I came along; DDH covered a Pale Saints song "shell" and 4tracked it...so I gave him a copy. We kept in touch after that. In fact I recently played sitar on a track for him, it should be coming out soon... It's me, him and the girl from the Japanese band Luminous Orange. YOU RELEASE YOUR RECORDS ON YOUR OWN LABEL. WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE? ANY PLANS FOR NEW RECORDINGS?

Yes, we put things out on our own Fertile Crescent Records-label. We have enough to do another entire album right now, but we will probably break it up and release some EP's... The plan right now is to record more often with smaller releases.

I'M A BIG FAN OF ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN. IN AN INTERVIEW YOU DID WITH "STRATOSPHERE" I READ THAT THEY WERE THE BAND WHO MADE YOU FORM A BAND. IS THIS TRUE OR NOT AND IS IAN MCCULLOCH THE COOLEST PERSON EVER?

Yes, I'm a huge Echo fan! I've seen them 4 times (twice with the original lineup), Ian solo one time and Electrafixion once. I got to meet Ian and Will at the Electrafixion gig...it was the only time I was a bit star struck!!! Echo was definitely one of the bands who made me wanna be in a band. There is something timeless about their music, magical and romantic... Ian is pretty cool and very charming, he's got a big mouth which he shoots off a lot, though he's usually right! I'd have to say he's cool as fuck! HHHHHMMM...AND HOW COOL ARE DEARDARKHEAD?

Well, obviously not cool enough to get signed...but that just makes us even cooler after 12 years! You can't get any more indie credibility than doing it yourself for this long!

THANKS A LOT! DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS? Big thanks to Original Sin for taking the time to write us, anyone reading this out there please feel free to check out our webpage at www.deardarkhead.com or write us at the above printed address.



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(URL <http://www.thewebsite.demon.co.uk>)



Punk and rock are still good mates, especially when you hear a band like Strain. Instead of coming up with polished indierocksongs, Strain deliver them with the needed dose of punkattitude...something you can hear on their new album "No butts or lugs". If someone tells you punkrock is dead, shove this into their mouth! And this is what comes out of their mouths...



WHO ARE STRAIN AND DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE MOST POWERFUL BAND IN THE UNIVERSE? Dave, Phil and Ash. It's up to somebody else to judge if we're powerful or not, we just think of ourselves as a pop band, but we like to play fast and hard.

YOU ARE A LOT FEATURED IN DIFFERENT FANZINES, SO AM I RIGHT THINKING YOU'RE QUITE A SUCCESSFUL BAND IN THE UNDERGROUNDSCENE?

Very underground. The fanzines like us, but the mainstream music press don't want to know because we aren't some shit-eating corporate rock bollocks, and we don't come from London. That's okay, we're doing fine without them.

JUDGING THE BAND ON THE MOST RECENT SINGLE I THINK STRAIN ARE A BAND WITH A LOT OF MUSICAL SIDES... EVERY SONG CAPTURED A DIFFERENT STYLE, SO WHAT KIND OF DESCRIPTION SUITS YOU BEST?

Strain hate describing music! We'd much rather hear other people's opinions on what we sound like. We just make the noise, it's up to you writers to describe it.

ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A FULL ALBUM RELEASE?

It's already recorded, we just haven't got the money to put it out yet, but we're working on that. In fact we've already got half the next album written already, and we'll be going into the studio to demo it soon. (AT THE MOMENT YOU'RE READING THIS, "NO BUTTS OR LUGGS" IS IN THE SHOP!-ed.)

TALKING ABOUT ALBUMS... IT'S NO SECRET THAT SO MANY BANDS ARE RELEASING EXCELLENT SINGLES BUT ONCE THEIR ALBUM IS OUT, IT'S LIKE THEIR TALENT IS FADING AWAY, CAN YOU SEE ANY EXPLANATION BEHIND THAT?

It's probably because the record labels are looking to make a quick killing, and the music press are just looking for something "different", without caring if it's actually any good. So bands have one good single, then fade away because they haven't got the material to back it up. I believe we have.

WHEN HEARING YOUR MUSIC, YOU JUST THINK : "THIS BAND MUST BE AMAZING TO SEE ON STAGE", CAN YOU ACHIEVE THE LIVEPOWER ON RECORD OR IS IT JUST NOT THE SAME?

We think we're best heard live. We still don't think we've managed to get the full energy and power of our live show on record, but we're getting there at the same time we've started introducing a few quieter songs into our live set. STRAIN ARE ALSO CONNECTED WITH SNOWBOARDING. HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT SPORT FOR YOU?

That was just something we did at the start for some easy publicity in the snow and skate press, but we're putting that behind us now. I've never been on a snowboard in my life, though Ash and Phil are still keen. We want people to listen to the music now, not get hung up on the image.

...UUUUUMMM...IS IT MORE IMPORTANT AS MUSIC?

Nothing is more important than the music, not even cool trousers. YOUR LABEL, SPRINGBOARD RECORDS, HAS ALSO A STRONG INTEREST FOR THE INTERNET. NOW YOU CAN SAY I'M A CONSERVATIVE BASTARD BUT I STILL DO THINK IT TAKES AWAY ALL THE PERSONAL CREATIVITY. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

It's a different kind of creativity. The reason people know us for our website is that it's a fucking good website, and it took Steve from our record label Loads of time and effort.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY...

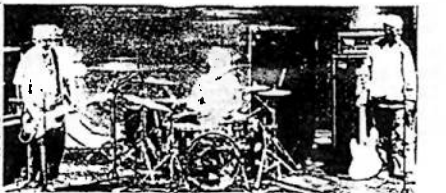
Too many to think about. Probably something by Leatherface, the loudest grubbist band ever. Or The Descendents, or Scott Walker...he did all these amazing records with orchestras and strings and stuff. The only thing I can't deal with is dance music. Phil (drums) likes techno stuff, but he's a bit strange.

I GUESS STRAIN ARE THE EXAMPLE OF ULTIMATE ROCK 'N ROLL... IS IT A LIFESTYLE YOU BELIEVE IN AND DO YOU THINK IT WILL EVER GO AWAY?

No, I think it's a load of absolute bollocks. Like you say, the music is the most important thing. What's cool about throwing televisions out of windows and having needles hanging out of your arms? We play, we drink beer (not too much), we go home, we sleep. That's rock 'n roll to me.

YOU HAVE A SINGLE CALLED "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN AMERICA". NOW YOU ALSO HAVE TO TELL WHO SHE IS...

I don't think she exists. The song is about supermodels and starlets with plastic tits, the kind that are the same shape when they're lying down (as they often are) as they're standing up. I can't understand anybody finding that more attractive than a normal



women with real tits. That wobble.
SUPPOSE YOU GO BACK IN TIME WITH A TIMEMACHINE AND MALCOLM MCLAREN ASKS YOU TO JOIN THE SEX PISTOLS, WOULD YOU DO IT?

No, I'd start Strain. The Sex Pistols were great, but only because it was those people in it, I'd make them start playing country covers or something which would fuck the whole thing up. I wouldn't want to be in any other band than the one I'm in. I'd stand in for Johnny Remore though, if he ever broke his arm, or had a runny bottom.

DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY TO WATCH THE ROLLING STONES IN 2000?

I don't think it's ever been a crime to watch The Rolling Stones but it's not something I'd ever admit to. They are no less relevant now than in the sixties, which is not at all. White middle-class kids pretending to be Mississippi bluesmen. Can't think of anything worse.

IF YOU COULD BE A POPSTAR OF YOUR CHOICE FOR 24 HOURS, WHO WOULD YOU BE THEN AND WHY?

The richest. Paul McCartney or someone I'd give all his fucking money away in one go. I hate these super-rich wankers who write these pretty songs about how fucked up the world is, while sitting on a huge pile of money. Why not use it to make things better? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE BAND IN THE FUTURE?

We're just going to keep on doing the things that bands do, playing gigs, recording stuff, and putting out records, and hoping somebody's listening.
DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?
Uh, no thanks.



WHISPERS IN THE SHADOW

Written by Dennis Ourt

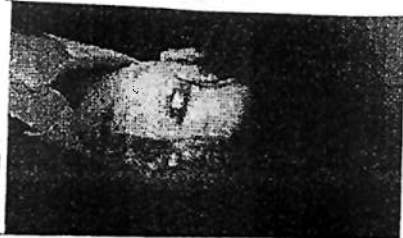
Whispers in the Shadow are a fascinating new band from Austria. When the first record was released and some connections to The Cure and David Bowie were made, I immediately got interested in the cd "Laudnum". Although you can hear influences of The Cure and "Berlin"-era Bowie and other goth wave stuff, they stand on their own feet and manage to combine 80's wave sounds with modern elements to develop something new. In early summer their second album "November" was released, and here is the interview with Ashley!

ASHLEY, AS NOT ALL OUR READERS KNOW THE BAND, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHO WHISPER IN THE SHADOWS ARE AND HOW LONG YOU EXIST AS A BAND?

I formed the band as a solo project in spring 96. After two demos the first offers for live gigs came along...so I decided to form a band. Richard Lederer (now from Die Verbannten Kinder Evas, Iceages and Summoning) played bass and recorded our debut "Laudnum"... More concerts, demos for the second one, and in May 98 we recorded "November". After finishing the recording sessions and the tour the band broke up, so I'm the only found member. But I have a new line up now, really great guys, and where does the band name come from?

Hmm, there are some rumours it came from some bad trip experiences I had in the past, but who knows, I don't... It stands for the music... RECENTLY YOU RELEASED YOUR SECOND ALBUM "NOVEMBER"; WHAT'S THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND "LAUDNUM"?

"November" is much better produced than "Laudnum" was, also the songs are much more pleasurable... I'm really proud, it's the kind of record I always wanted to listen to, so... IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, "TRAIN" WOULD'VE BEEN A PERFECT SINGLE AND A HIT IN A PERFECT WORLD, WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG?
"Train" was a kind of breakpoint in our career...I really like this song...



lyrically it is about driving away from yourself or from somebody else. There is no way back, just one way, straight ahead. LIVE, YOU ARE CURRENTLY DEMOTING SONGS FOR THE NEXT RELEASE, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE BRAND NEW SNUFF?

I promise you, it sounds great, much more power than ever...the new line-up is wonderful... It sounds totally different from everything we did before, I don't want to do the same record 100 times... Much more guitars, more melodic keyboards...powerful drumming. Nearly every song is about "getting older, but trying to stay young at heart" and about the feelings that comes along. Fear, selfdoubt, hate but also some weird kind of hope... Working title is "A taste of decay" and if everything goes the way I want, it will be out in late March or April.

WHISPER IN THE SHADOW ARE KNOWN AS A VERY GOOD LIVEBAND, HOW DO THE SONGS CHANGE FROM THE STUDIOPRODUCTIONS?

We always try to do something different from what we do on records, we play a lot of extended versions (from tracks like "Song for the radio", "Green blue dream", "November")...all in all it sounds, you know, more powerful. I really like to play live...always.

DO YOU PREFER RECORDING OR PLAYING LIVE?

It's really different. Playing live is a great thing, but only for the moment. Recording is more creative, but can be a little bit mechanical sometimes... YOU ARE A BIG FAN OF THE CURE, WHAT OTHER BANDS DO YOU LIKE AND CAN YOU TELL US YOUR TOP 5 ALBUMS OF ALL TIME?

My favourite bands are: Cure, Placebo (best band of the 90's), David Bowie, Glen Of Ymox, Portishead, Andrea Parker, old Sisters Of Mercy, Cockeye Twins, Smashing Pumpkins (only the new), Air...just to name a few. Favourite 5 are: "Pornography" by The Cure, "Disintegration" by The Cure, "Without you I'm nothing" by Placebo, "Treasure" by Cockeye Twins and "Low" by David Bowie.

CURRENTLY LOTS OF BANDS DO SPECIAL THINGS VIA THE INTERNET LIKE BROADCASTING COMPLETE SHOWS AND SUCH, DO YOU CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT?

The internet is really important! It's what will be happening in the future. I think in 20 years the cd won't exist anymore...everything will be done via the Net...

VARIOUS WHISPER IN THE SHADOWS SONGS ALMOST SHOW FOR A VIDEOCLIP, WILL THERE BE SUCH A THING IN THE FUTURE OR SOME MULTIMEDIA STUFF ON THE NEXT CD?

It would be great if we could do a video or something like that, but you know, the money...

AUSTRIA IS NOT KNOWN FOR A HUGE GOTH/WAVE SCENE. ARE THERE BANDS YOU CAN RECOMMEND TO OUR READERS?

In Austria, really nothing is happening... It's a really small country, with a small wave music scene...within 1 month you will know everyone. There are only a few groups that are worth to name: L'Amme Immortelle (Electrowave), Die Verbannten Kinder Evas (Romantic Dark Wave), Iceages (Industrial Wave), Agony (Gothmetal)...that's it...that's it... ABOUT THE 'BLACK SCENE', IS THE SCENE ONLY IMAGINATION OR DOES IT STILL EXIST WITH ALL THE IDEALS?

I really don't know, I've never been part of a scene or something like that, I always try to do my own thing...so... LAST QUESTION, WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR? (YOU SEE HOW QUICK WE ARE!!!-ed.)

I hope that the next record will sound like I want, and that we can do more concerts than ever... THANKS VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS!! (Internet: <http://www.wod.de> or <http://home.t-online.de/home/dreams.Never>. End/whispers.htm)

HEY!!! I WANNA REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING!!! THERE'S STILL PLACE IN THIS ZINE FOR YOU! IT'S CALLED "THIS IS YOUR PAGE!!". AND YOU CAN USE IT FOR ANY KIND OF NON-COMMERCIAL ADS OR MESSAGES, SO DO SEND THEM IN!!! FROM PEOPLE WHO'RE LOOKING FOR FREE SEX TO THOSE WHO WANNA HAVE THE FIRST SINGLE BY KYLE MINOGUE...EVERYTHING IS WELCOME, WE PRINT IT... HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? FREE...THAT'S THE KEYWORD...

KIRLIAN CAMERA

ADDRESS : KIRLIAN CAMERA,
PIAZZA DELLE TERRAMARE 5, 43040 PARMA (LOC. VICOPERTILE),
ITALIA



Some of you will probably know who Kirlian Camera are as they're a big name in the gothic underground but they're also sort of mystic. I guess their popularity in the gothscene comes from the mystic character their music has. It's not goth as you know it, in fact a term like "dark pop" is more at its place. Every Kirlian Camera-songs is like a little movie, it creates an atmosphere that I often compare with the things Ivo Watts did with his This Mortal Coil-project. Sometimes it's wonderful and sometimes it's morbid. Kirlian Camera were always a common name for me, and after having seeing them as support act from Clan Of Xymox in Germany I knew after a couple of minutes that a new fave band was born. So much in fact that their latest release "Unidentified light" is one of the most played records from my entire collection. But it's not all beauty that shines through it, they recently became the victims of being called "neo-nazis". Not on record or neither on stage I saw any hint of this, and mastermind Angelo took time to explain it all... It can only have one conclusion : never judge something you know nothing about... Fascism has to be banned but at the moment that political groups are using it to attack little bands who have nothing to do with it, then there is something wrong... The sole thing Kirlian Camera is that they use their music as a sort of tool to fuck up your innocent brains....

WELL, LET'S KICK OFF SAYING WHO KIRLIAN CAMERA ARE... It's a band officially born in 1980, although it set up earlier under different names. I am the only survivor of the original line-up. Today, the band is Emilia Lo Jacono (vocals, guitars, keyboards), Elena Fossi (vocals, keyboards, percussion) and myself, Angelo Bergamini (electronics, keyboards, programming, bass, vocals), plus some additional friends collaborating with us when it's necessary : Nancy Appiah (vocals, percussion) and Gianluca Becuzzi (keyboards, electronics). We did release our first tape in 1980, and our first vinyl, which was a mini-album, in 1981. Nothing more to say.

I KNOW MANY BANDS WHO ARE PART OF THE "ITALIAN BLACK SCENE" BUT IT SEEMS KIRLIAN CAMERA ARE ONE OF THE FEW WHO CAN RELY ON EUROPEAN UNDERGROUND SUCCES. SURE I AGREE THAT IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF YOUR VERY ORIGINAL SOUND BUT DO NOT YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A BIT LUCKY?

You are surely joking. Otherwise, how can you consider our story as a lucky thing?!? I started performing alive in 1974. In 1993 I've finally seen some money and the real chance to survive making music, making the music I like without any compromise. Please try to realize I come from a working-class family, not from a high-class one... So, you can surely understand how it has been hard this way. Then, you surely know we aren't Michael Jackson! Every release is a big risk, as we don't sell millions of releases everywhere! Lucky...?!? A lucky walking-dead, maybe! Maybe a stupid and reckless man. I am 42, today. My life has no economical certainty, but I feel it's impossible stop playing, as I need to say something more, as I couldn't give up with music, if had nothing more to say. Music is sometimes a sort of an uncomfortable thing, not a golden dream.

ALSO WE CAN SAY KIRLIAN CAMERA ARE A BIT OF VETERANS. I MEAN YOU ARE ALREADY ACTIVE SINCE 1988... A DECADE IN WHICH WAVE/GOTH BANDS WERE LARGELY IGNORED, WHERE AS NOW THERE SEEMS TO BE (AT LEAST!) A REAL REVIVAL. DO YOU THINK THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEN AND NOW?

Since 1980, as I've told you before. Anyway, this story of the eighties-revival is not giving us any remarkable help, as our sound is largely disconnected from that scene. We are often mixed with goth and industrial area, sometimes with trip-hop/techno, other times with ritual/esoteric. Of course, there's a difference between early 80's and today's "wave". Today we can see and hear just mere "clones" without any identity. Then, some bands are trying to reach some real original style while catching a glimpse to that period, and that's fine, if they want. But, more or less, situation is sad.

There was something like a big "non-movement", 20 years ago... Today it's a question of 'look'.... A ridiculous one, in addition. Better to go ahead, trying to understand what music itself is. Someone is trying to get on that way, but only a few ones. WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'VE LISTENED A LOT OF TIMES TO YOUR MUSIC BUT I'VE NEVER CHECKED OUT YOUR LYRICS (MOST DUE TO LAZINESS) BUT SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK I NEED TO, AS MUSIC SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. DO YOU THINK YOUR LYRICS ARE IMPORTANT?

I understand and accept your position, but... Ah, you rascal... so don't you read any lyrics?!? OK, joking apart, I must say our recent lyrics are just an effective important part of our work, as well as music itself. Time ago my writing was more confuse and less evokative but today I am finally allowed to write about my real life with no large emphasis. I attach great importance to lyrics, now. DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THIS, BUT I PERSONALLY NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF AS "NORMAL" (ALTHOUGH I OFTEN THINK THAT IT'S JUST THE OTHERS WHO ARE ABNORMAL) AND IN KIRLIAN CAMERA'S MUSIC I CAN RECOGNIZE THIS MADNESS. DO YOU THINK YOUR MUSIC REPRESENTS A SORT OF MADNESS?

To be honest, I know I have not to be taken as a "monument" to normality, but, throughout time, I tried and I'm trying to become a bit more "regular", as I hate madness, I hate those people who'd like to consider madness as something "cool". I said several times that madness is a hell, not a 'trendy look'. Psychiatric clinics aren't Disneyland at all! Anyway, maybe you have caught some signals which are deeply connected with my real state-of-mind, a mind which is sometimes hard and uneasy to be driven. Hope your madness is only a "cool attitude" and not suffering, anyway... Otherwise... you know what I mean. MOST OF KIRLIAN CAMERA'S MUSIC IS BASED ON ELECTRONICS. IS THAT ALSO THE KIND OF MUSIC INSPIRING YOU, AND THE SAME YOU LISTEN TO?

I like electronic music since late 60's, when I was a baby! But I am not that used to listen to tons of electro sounds only, as I like to range over lots of other music languages. For instance, today's work I like to listen to is Arvo Pärt's "Kanon Pokajenen", which is a long composition for choir, not including anything else but human voices. Then, my approach to electronics is quite anomalous, as I don't like working with pc's and macs, preferring uncomfortable machines allowing me to catch up some particular music "colours" ...Pc's have something "grey" in their able but standard "soul". WHEN I SAW KIRLIAN CAMERA ON STAGE, IT WAS REALLY STRANGE TO SEE THE SINGER ANGELO WEARING A CAGOULE... IT REALLY MADE IT A SCARY EVENT (IN THE SENSE THAT THE 'FACELESS' SINGER WAS IN FACT A PERSON I WAS IDENTIFYING MYSELF WITH, IN A MUSICAL SENSE)... ANY SPECIAL REASON WHY YOU DO THAT?

Perhaps there's neither strange nor hidden meaning to that. Just sometimes I don't like to show my face, especially on stage, as I find it too awful. I do not like people staring at my face, as music is enough. Then, maybe there's something I don't like anybody sees, into that balaklava/mask. That's not a lack of respect to the audience, believe me, but just something like saying "I am here, but don't care about this". Anyway, I often take that cagoule off, while performance is ending up... trying to prove I respect the audience. KIRLIAN CAMERA BECAME RECENTLY VICTIMS OF BEING CALLED "NAZIS". IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT BANDS WHO ARE MISUNDERSTOOD GOT LABELLED AS SOMETHING THEY AREN'T. HOW DID THAT WHOLE THING STARTED AND... DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT TO OUR READERS?

Since many times we have troubles in that way, but lately as big activity against us is getting stronger. We have put an official communiqué into our latest single. It is readable by personal computer. Our position on that matter is quite uncomfortable, as I have always rejected several advice to clearing my political faith; so to make things easier, smoothing out any tension. That's not my style, as I really believe one must be free to think... whatever... he/she likes, especially when not used to make any political propaganda, like in our case.

Political organisations like "Grufties gegen Rechts" and "Antifa" keep on



spreading a real persecution against us. Many dates have been cancelled, last year, as organizers received several threats from "unknown" people... Those threats are increasing.

IS "THANKS PIGS" ON THE LATEST ALBUM A REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO NAME YOU NAZIS? Not exactly, although the real reason is linked with that matter. The song is mainly dedicated to those journalists that never waste the opportunity to pan every work we release. Sometimes they even write and tell unreal things about the songs they review...proving they haven't even listened to our work. Most of them are strictly connected with so-called "democratic areas". Take a look to the latest issue of Belgian "Side-Line" for instance. How could I call them in another way but pigs?!? We could make an unforgettable masterpiece or a bloody crap...the result doesn't change...: they write our work is awful. Pigs are just good eat to make salami, not to write anything on any magazine or fanzine.

LOTS OF PEOPLE STATE THEY'RE ALTERNATIVE, BUT ALL I SEE (EXCEPTIONS APART) ARE SCENES WHICH ARE ISOLATING THEMSELVES...METAL, GOTH, PUNK, DANCE...YOU NAME IT. ISN'T IT THAT MANY OF TODAY'S ALTERNATIVE PEOPLE ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE ONES THEY'RE REACTING AT?

Yes, it is. The funny thing is just that those people, once they are still young, like to hang Guevara posters on their small room, then once they grow up they speak and look perfectly opposite. Maybe the real reason which makes them acting that way when they are young is just a desperate need to find some idiot to fuck. Once they have grown up, they suddenly find out that an Armani suit is much better. Of course there is some exception, like the ones who look like teenagers at 50. What a disaster, my God! There is no place for love, as people don't know what it is. How can you expect those idiots have any real sheer heart?!? They are only good to judge as 'criminal' whoever doesn't feel in the mood to join them...they respect real criminals and try to imitate them in a clumsy way. That's the fact.



KIRLIAN CAMERA ARE ALSO A "DIFFICULT" BAND IN THE SENSE THAT I DON'T THINK LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT IS POSSIBLE (MIND YOU..., LOVE AT THIRD SIGHT IS SO MUCH STRONGER!). DO YOU THINK THAT YOU COULD APPRECIATE YOUR OWN MUSIC (WITHOUT DIGGING DEEPER) IF YOU WERE NOT THE CREATOR?

Early releases were easier to understand, since there was a certain immaturity, in the band. Latest works are maybe much more complicated and need some time to be "found". It's normal, I am not a teenager any longer, and I don't need to tell lies to anybody; I couldn't keep on making "naïve" music eternally, as my own identity and

character have been developed throughout time, I hope! Yes, I guess I would like this music exactly, If I were just a buyer or a normal listener.

YOU ALSO USE LOTS OF SAMPLERS IN YOUR MUSIC. LIKE IF YOU USE A LYRIC FROM A MOVIE LIKE "ANGEL HEART", IS THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO RECREATE THAT MOOD IN MUSIC FORM...OR IS IT A MATTER OF SOUNDING NICE?

First, I wish to clear one point : we don't use sampling that much. For example, just in the latest issue, we have written on the booklet that that album/single doesn't include any sampled rhythm groove. We have nothing against those who like doing that, but today we prefer creating our own original grooves, since there's maybe an overcrowding of bands which keep on releasing tons of music without knowing that much about 'playing' music. On the other hand, sometimes we like to put some short samples (especially taken from movies) on our tracks; we do that because we feel that particular track sounds globally better if it gets some reasonable contextualisation. The case of "Angel Heart" is simple... That movie is in some strange way linked with my past, and anyway that film has been quite panned by critics, so there's no chance to appear as "clever", as that's not a "trendy" movie... We haven't put any Derek Jarman's sample on it... May you understand what I mean? (I CERTAINLY DO!-ed.)

ANGELO HAS RECENTLY PRODUCED THE VERY DARK ALBUM BY LEUTHA, DOES IT HAPPEN MORE THAT PEOPLE ARE APPROACHING YOU FOR PRODUCER'S WORK?

Often people ask for my collaboration in studio as a producer or arranger, but unfortunately I couldn't accept so frequently, as my level of stress is at the top. In the past I produced some works, but now is often impossible and I am forced to reject some good offers. If possible, in the future I'll be more relaxed, accepting with pleasure what I consider as valid, but today there's just place for a few occasional collaborations with friends, and Roberta is one of them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY...

It's probably Pink Floyd's "Meddle", because it's one of the first I listened to. I went completely mad with that album's long suite titled "Echoes"! Kirlian Camera's music started after I listened to that track. It was nothing but perfect, to me. Then, of course, many works were not less important.

WITH WHO WOULDN'T YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

Emanuelle Seigner. I love her, so it would be too hard if she doesn't give me any kiss...I could cry! What a romantic shit I am!!!

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM KIRLIAN CAMERA IN THE FUTURE?

Disasters over disasters! Joking apart, I can say we are just now finishing the recording sessions for the new album, which comes out a very few time after the latest one, as it is its final part, in fact the title is UNIDENTIFIED LIGHT II. The atmosphere is nevertheless different, as "air" turns here into something darker (not gothic) and "lightless". Patrick Leagas (Death In June/Sixth Comm/Mother Destruction) has been added to our line-up as a guest at vocals and electronics. Meanwhile, we have accepted to acknowledge the first official book on Kirlian Camera which will be released quite soon, containing an album of unreleased re-mixes made by bands like Wumpscut, Collection D'Arnell-Andrea, Limbo, Leutha, Allerseeelen, Patrick Leagas, Andrew King, Naevus, Manipulation and more...

Then, we try to keep on performing alive, if "some people" like to let us doing that. We should play at the Belgian Eurorockfestival even though it is not confirmed yet. Hope Belgian audience will understand we are definitely not involved in any 'hidden political strategy' but just on stage to play music, in total relax and respect for any possible political faith and religion. Anyway, there is some rumour making me not that sure we come.

DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?

Never loose hope, although hope is just a cruel thing. Stay away from pigs...

NAEVUS

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How to describe the music of Naevus? Well, I'm afraid I'm falling into old clichés but original music can't be described.

I can try but at advance I know I will fail. So what's the use? One thing is sure, the music these two Welsh people make will be categorized as "dark wave" and especially a band like Death In June will spring to mind (or the later works of Michael Gira's outfit The Swans). Making unfashionable music in the most fashionable town (they live in London!) in the world must be a very strange thing...so I decided to ask them these questions..

HELLO, WHO ARE NAEVUS?

Lloyd : Naevus is me (Lloyd James) singing, playing guitar and making other sounds...

Joanne : ...And me (Joanne Owen) playing bass.

BEFORE NAEVUS, YOU WERE OPERATING UNDER THE NAMES OF RIDDLEHOUSE AND WINTER. WHY CHANGE AND HAS THAT CHANGE HAD ITS CONSEQUENCES IN THE MUSIC ITSELF?

Lloyd : Winter was a completely different band, I suppose. Although both Joanne and myself were in Winter, we also had a guitarist and it was very much a three-way collaboration. Now that the guitarist is no longer involved, the chemistry of the group is very different and so it really is a completely different group. As for Riddlehouse, we only used that band name for one cassette which was an experiment, really, to see if we could make music without having to rely on a guitarist. We never intended to take Riddlehouse any further than that so the "Wilkin's bones"-cassette contained four songs specially written for that one themed project. Although Naevus had the same members as Riddlehouse, it is quite a separate entity since we hope to be able to realize ideas that we felt were frustrated by our previous bands.

Joanne : The name changes were deliberate, as Lloyd said, and now with Naevus, for the first time I feel that we are doing has much more permanence and



is a much more focused project.
 I DON'T KNOW IF I CATEGORIZE YOU UNDER DARK-WAVE OR NOT BUT IT'S CERTAINLY SO THAT YOUR SOUND IS RATHER DOOMY AND THAT SOMETIMES YOU'RE A BIT LIKE DEATH IN JUNE OR SWANS. DO YOU THINK THAT YOURSELVES?

Lloyd : Yes, it's true that we are frequently compared to both Death In June and Swans. I have no objections to these comparisons since I have a great deal of respect for both of these bands. As far as Death In June goes, I think that the fact that our music is simple in its arrangements and the fact that we often use acoustic guitar and drum machine together can lead people to make a comparison, and I'll readily admit that I've been influenced by Douglas P.'s songs. And as for Swans, I think that there is often a certain kind of weight to our songs which can be found in many Swans songs.

Joanne : I'm very flattered that we've been compared to these bands as I really admire their work. What I think we have in common with them, apart from the use of acoustic guitar, is the creation of a feeling of imbalance, the giving of priority to unusual elements and a pure, strong sense of purpose.

TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT THAT OFTEN THAT DARKWAVE COMES FROM BRITAIN...SO I SUPPOSE YOU MUST FEEL A BIT LIKE "L'ENFANT TERRIBLE" OF THE BRITISH MUSICSCENE?

Lloyd : I think I'd have to agree. I think that people have so far found it quite hard to categorize our music in Britain because we have leanings towards several different areas. We try to make music that is as natural as possible to us, but since both Joanne and myself listen to a wide variety of music, we are influenced directly by styles which may seem at first to be in conflict. I actually think such conflicts can make bands more interesting but record labels, for example, seem to think it only makes bands difficult to market.

OVER HERE THERE IS A GREAT CROWD FOR DARK MUSIC AND THEN I MEAN THAT IT REALLY HAS ALL THE STYLES IN IT (FROM GOTH-METAL TO EBM-ACTS). IS THE SAME THING HAPPENING IN BRITAIN?

Lloyd : I think that things are very segregated in Britain. There is so much bickering and foolish snobbery between various parts of the British scene that I really don't want to even think about it.

Joanne : In Britain there is a little innovation at the moment. There are essentially two kinds of bands making "dark music"; there are guitar heavy gothic rock bands making very cheesy electro music. Anything outside these two kinds of music tends to be overlooked.

I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL AGREE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH OF A BRITISH SOUND AND I SEE IT POSSIBLE THAT THE BAND CAN ONCE RELY ON A FANBASE WORLDWIDE. SO ARE THERE ANY IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR GIGGING OUTSIDE BRITAIN OR IS THAT JUST TOO EARLY?

Lloyd : It's true that so far our album has been received better on the continent than in Britain. It is distributed by ENDE throughout Europe but so far we have not had much response at home. And as for gigs, our first gig as Naevus was actually in Germany in a town called Herford. I enjoyed that gig very much and the audience seemed to enjoy it quite a lot too. We may be playing a couple of gigs in Italy later this year, but we'll have to wait and see. And if anyone feels like offering us a gig in their country, please get in touch as we love to travel.

Joanne : I agree that we don't sound specifically British, or at least it's clear that we have a wider and more receptive audience in mainland Europe. The fact that the people who came to our gig in Germany really appreciated it without having heard of us or listened to our music before was a really good sign.

ONE OF THE MEMBERS IS ALSO INVOLVED IN WOMB WHO ARE IN MY OPINION ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING GOTH ACTS FROM TODAY. ISN'T IT A BIT DIFFICULT TO BE INVOLVED IN TWO BANDS WHO ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, EVEN IF IT'S BOTH DARK MUSIC?

Joanne : You're right. I play live bass with Womb and I'm also with the band Leisure Hive. The actual sound of the bands may be different but we do share a love of similar types of music. Greg from Womb and Dan from Leisure Hive now play live guitar with Naevus and the three bands have recently released the split CD album "This is not failure" which features five new songs by each band. The only time being in three bands gets a bit stressful is when we all play at the same gig - playing three sets in the space of a few hours is a bit draining!

NAEVUS ARE ALSO A BAND WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT, BUT IT NEVER GOES TOO FAR (I MEAN THE CONCEPT OF THE SONG IS ALWAYS IN SIGHT). DO YOU THINK THERE ARE LIMITS IN HOW FAR YOU CAN EXPERIMENT OR NOT?

Lloyd : I don't think you should ever be afraid of going too far in experimenting with music. However, it's important to remember that making a weird piece

of music is not necessarily the same thing as making a good piece of music. Sometimes I do come up with ideas that I think would not fit in with what my idea of Naevus is, but I try to realize these ideas outside of the group. For example, I try to pursue my fascination for repetition and how it can be used to create tension with a solo project under the name Retarder.

Joanne : I agree that there are no limits as to how far or individual can experiment, but with Naevus we tend to set ourselves a certain framework to work within. We essentially use traditional instrumentation - vocals, guitar, bass, some keyboards - but the sounds we use, the importance we give to these elements and the use of carefully chosen additional noises give us a different approach. I think that setting yourself some limits can bring out more interesting and original ideas than having none at all! We have talked about working on more abstractly experimental pieces but we find working on songs to be very rewarding and we both have other outlets for exploring less song-based ideas; while Lloyd has his Retarder, I've got my Virginia Fur!

YOU RECENTLY RELEASED YOUR 'TRUFFLES OF LOVE'-CD AND SURE IT'S A GREAT BUT IT DIDN'T WONDER ME AT ALL THAT THE BRITISH PRESS DIDN'T WRITE A WORD ABOUT IT. DO THINGS LIKE THAT DISSAPPOINT YOU?

Lloyd : To be honest, yes, but we were not surprised. However, at the risk of sounding overly pompous, I do believe that in ten or twenty years time it will be remembered as a great album, even if only by a relatively small number of people.

Joanne : We have had some review coverage in Britain and are awaiting more, but things seem to get done so slowly. It is frustrating, but at the same time we're pleased to be getting some interest from other countries.

IN FACT I WANNA KNOW...IS THERE REALLY A PUBLIC FOR MUSIC LIKE YOURS IN BRITAIN?

Lloyd : I don't really know, but if there is, where is it? For a small band, it can be discouraging to think that not many people will be interested in their music but fortunately we have enough faith in what we do to not get excessively depressed about it. For example, I am a big fan of David B. Williams, but I doubt that he has a huge following. The fact that he is making intelligent music that gets through to at least a few people is an achievement in itself.

Joanne : Well, I would like to think there is a public for us! There is a fairly large following for bands such as Current 93 so there must be some kind of an audience out there. The question is, are they interested in hearing new bands, or do they prefer to stick with what they know?

DOES THE MUSIC FROM NAEVUS REFLECT YOUR OWN TASTE OR DO YOU LISTEN TO COMPLETELY OTHER STUFF?

Lloyd : I enjoy listening to a wide range of music, but I suppose that my current listening habits are bound to be reflected in the music of Naevus. I suppose the bands that I listen to most whose influence is not directly audible in the sound of Naevus are Lydia Lunch, Shock Headed Peters, Magazine... I could go on forever.

Joanne : Well, I certainly listen to all the bands we've been compared to, so to some extent our music reflects what I listen to, but at the same time, as Lloyd, said there are many other bands/musicians which I like and are not reflected in Naevus. I mean, we don't sound anything like The Slits or Lemon Kittens but they are some of my favourite bands.

AND WHILE WE'RE AT THE SUBJECT...WHAT'S YOUR FAVE RECORD OF ALL TIME AND PLEASE STATE WHY...

Lloyd : For me, it has to be "Secondhand Daylight" by Magazine (WOOCW!-ed.). It's the best album by the best group there has ever been. As a lyricist, I think that there are very few people who can come near Howard Devoto in terms of sheer quality, and I think that on "Secondhand Daylight" the rest of the band are really on fine form as well. With songs like "Cut-Out Shapes" and "Permafrost" on it that album stands as the best account of what it is to be a living, thinking human.

Joanne : One album that will always be very special to me is "Cut" by The Slits. As a band The Slits really inspired me to make music and



that album really captures their spirit and excitement. Also I would have to say "Christ and the Pale Queens Mighty in Sorrow" by Current 93 because of its purity and beauty.

YOUR MUSIC IS ALSO LIKE A CONCEPT OF EMOTION WRAPPED INTO A BEAUTIFUL MELODY, HOW DIFFICULT IT MIGHT BE TO ANSWER THIS...HOW DOES A NAEVUS-SONG GET BORN?

Lloyd : It varies a lot from song to song, but generally, especially with the new songs, I will have an idea in my head of what I want the song to achieve, of what its eventual meaning will be, and I will then assemble words, melodies, chords until it has a basic shape. Then I will play these ideas through with Joanne and we then go about adding to and editing the songs until it comes as close as possible to expressing the original idea.

WHICH ARE THE MAIN INFLUENCES : DAILY MOODS OR WORKS BY OTHER ARTISTS?

Lloyd : While we are undoubtedly influenced by other artists to some extent in terms of sound or approach, the main motivation for me in making music is to put accross certain ideas I have concerning value and how this affects me and the world around me. I would not be content with using ideas which had already been exhausted by others.

SORRY BUT THIS IS A QUESTION I ASK IN EVERY INTERVIEW...WITH WHO WOULDN'T YOU MIND TO BE ALONE WITH IN AN ELEVATOR FOR 8 HOURS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

Lloyd : I think it would have to be John Berryman, the American poet. If he was still alive. I'd ask him to tell me some stories about poor Henry.

Joanne : I don't know what he would think about this now we've got to know him, but I would say Karl Blake (from Lemon Kittens/Schock Headed Peters/Sol Invictus). I wouldn't do anything to him, but instead have a nice chat and ask him to perform some of his lovely spoken-word pieces.

HOW IMPORTANT IS MUSIC FOR YOU? AN ARTFORM OR SIMPLY EVERYTHING?

Lloyd : Art is undoubtedly the most important thing in my life. In the past there have been periods when I have been heavily involved with visual art or with poetry; at the moment, music is the artform I am most involved in so, at the moment, it is the most important thing in my life.

Joanne : So much of my thought and time goes into music that I would have to say music is everything. I would like to do more writing, but at the moment all of my energy goes into music. Even though I have come from a non-musical background (self-taught etc. etc.) I am currently finding that music is a very suitable and rewarding medium for me to work in.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM NAEVUS IN THE FUTURE?

Lloyd : We are about to start recording our second album which will be entitled 'Soil'. It should be released by the end of the summer, if not before.

It follows in the direction of songs like "Rags" from the first album but this time all of the songs together make more of an unified whole.

Joanne : We should also have a six track 10" available some time soon after the second album. This will probably include alternative versions of previously released songs along with a few new ones. We've also recorded a track for the forthcoming Kirlian Camera tribute album which we were asked to contribute to. This should be coming out in May.

DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING SPECIAL TO OUR READERS?

Lloyd : Thanks for reading this interview and thanks to Didier for interviewing us. And I urge anyone reading this issue to get in touch with any of the bands in it if they are interested because it's zines like The Original Sin that help to keep good music alive. If you want any more information on Naevus or any of the other projects we're involved in, you can get in touch with us at the above printed address.

...Note from your editor!!!

The final words of Lloyd are in fact the essence of The Original Sin in a nutshell. Some of my close friends ask me what's the use of reading a zine like mine as 99% from all the bands who are in here are unknown territory. They may be good friends but comments like these makes me kind of angry. This zine is in no way a mag for musical snobs (at the moment of writing this I'm listening to the latest album by Red Hot Chili Peppers, so there goes my credibility...but fuck credibility!) but it's just that there are thousands of great bands who are ignored, and there is only one way to know them and that's getting in touch with them! If someone asks me "How do you know so many bands?" I generally reply in all kindness but in fact I want to shout at them : "Have you ever heard about something like a pen and paper?". Write 'em and the bands will reply. It may be a sad theory to live with but I'm not God and if they answer my letters, I'm sure they're going to answer yours! That's why from now on I always do include those e-mail addresses. Not because I will be on the internet...but just cos there's no excuse for not getting in touch...

OUR HOLY BIBLE....

Bible??? What bible??? Are you going to read here that Jesus is celebrating his 2000th anniversary? Of course not, not only is it every year the same old shit (...although the stable gets much modern each year!), but with the bible I mean the efforts from all those fanzinewriters who're trying to do all the same : supporting their fave bands and in most cases it's a very underground-thing which is fab : it's them who need it most!

QUIEN N°7

A Japanese zine written in English! And not one band I'm familiar with... This is not a zine dedicated to obscure Japanese bands, but a zine that is in search for obscure indiepopbands... If you'd like to know who Red Go-Cart (hmm, I know this band...), Bikeride or Analog 2nd Camera are, you have to write to Japan! (CONTACT : MADOKA FUKUSHIMA, 1473-3-2-203 KAMIYA-MOTOSAKA, TSURU-SHI YAMANASHI, 402-0053 JAPAN)

TRUCKING & PAVING N°3

Isn't patience the keyword in zineworld? I mean, we had to wait more than a year before the third issue from this zine came out. But you know all the reasons why, zinewriters aren't paid to do this which means that they have to do everything in their free time and I know how it feels to say to someone they have to wait some time before they can read their review... Anyway, Trucking & Paving is still one of the best zines around simply because they have an opinion, so if they don't like it the editor is giving you a hard time. I can't agree with some of their statements (...or do you all think Six By Seven are the best band ever?). Also articles on Plumtree (the Canadian version of the sadly missed Kenickie), Godspeed You Black Emperor!, Hiramaka Hi-Fi and the ultrasexy shoegazer-revivalists The Dandy Warhols. (CONTACT : CHRIS, 67 CHALVINGTON ROAD, CHANDLERS FORD, HAMPSHIRE, SO53 3EF, U.K.)

BLACK VELVET N°22

Editor Shari is becoming the queen of zineworld. Not only have Pierce Panda Riot Grrrrls Twist named a single after her ('Shari Says') but Melody Maker has included her articles about The Manics on their last US tour (it was her who rambled so much about Nicky Wire's pants!). "Black Velvet" is a glossy mag (but still with the real zinereport) and it includes all the current rockheroes of today...of course there are some bad ones (Feeder, Stereophonics...) but also a lot of good ones (Rachel Stamp, Cay, Cyclefly...)(CONTACT : SHARI, 336 BIRCHFIELD ROAD, WEBHEATH, REDDITCH, WORCS, B97 4NG, U.K.)

MONAS HIEROGLYPHICA N°9

Some people might think that fanzines are publications about music. That's not true at all as I don't think there is any subject which hasn't got a zine about (...recently I got a zine about subways!!!, and that's not a joke). Let's say Monas Hieroglyphica is a zine about culture (most of it is about literature, but there's also a very interesting piece about Julian, the last Emperor of the Roman Empire). All this and a dedicated love to gothmusic (you will find stuff from All Living Fear and Faithful Dawn in here) makes this a delight to read... (CONTACT : JAMIE W SPRACKLEN, 58 SEYMOUR ROAD, HADLEIGH, BENFLEET, ESSEX, SS7 2HL, U.K.)

ZEITGEIST N°4, ISSUE 5

Zeitgeist is the most frequent zine I can think about and it has become like a mag you're constantly looking forward for to read it. They're extremely open minded...or have you already found a zine that mentions both Sammy Hagar (if you don't know he's a hardrock-icon from the 70's) and Body Full Of Stars (in case you don't know, they're the prog-rock sensation of the late 90's) in one mag? No restrictions on here, this is not about scenes...this is about music! (CONTACT : ZEITGEIST, PO BOX 13499, EDINBURGH, EH6 8YL, U.K.)

EMANCIPATION N°9

The zine may have the classic lay-out, but Ruth's taste in music isn't classical at all. Articles about Seafood, Bellatrix, The Beta Band, Muse, Creed, Groop Dogdrill, Brassy...and the zine also wants to review demos from upcoming bands...so why wait? (CONTACT : RUTH, 5 LANESIDE AVE, HIGHAM, BURNLEY, LANCS, BB12 9DA, U.K.)

LA PLUME DE MORPHESSA N°3

Impressive...and already this word isn't enough to describe this gothzine

(...this has 104 pages!!!). Maybe it's for some of you a sad thing that this is written in French but with more than 100 reviews (from established bands to brand new bands who have just released a demo) and extremely interesting articles about bands like Ataraxia, Lacrimosa, Rosa Crux, Swan Death and occult things from the Middle Ages this publication is a must for everyone who's interested in the gothscene. (CONTACT : PEIFFER PATRICIA, 58 RUE DE DINAN, 35000 RENNES, FRANCE)

VISION THING Winter 1999

Another frequent publication is Vision Thing. Me and Mr. D. Gill share a bit the same musical visions:...a deep love for goth/industrial sounds (articles about Christian Death, Nine Inch Nails and The Chaos Engine) plus a wide selection from bands you only read about in fanzines (Doris Alloy, Agenda, Neurotic Pop Thrill, Inter Nos, Blowholy...). Almost as good as The Original Sin!!! (CONTACT : D. GILL, 11 CHESTNUT COURT, MAIN STREET, FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX, TW13 6SX, U.K.)

JOCKROCK N°2

We can describe this zine in a very easy way...it's all about the Scottish scene. If it's not included in here, you can say it's a non-Scottish band!!! Besides the many reviews there are interviews with Spare Snare, The Secret Goldfish, The Beta Band, Laconic (...as good as The Jesus & The Mary Chain!!!) and Magnetic North Pole. (CONTACT : JOCKROCK, PO BOX 13516, LINLITHGOW, EH49 6WB, U.K.)

TOTEM N°12

Another impressive gothzine, this time it has 60 pages and it's written in German! There is a newssection (kind of essential), interviews with The House Of Usher, Midnight Configuration, Storm Constantine (who's a fantasy-novelist), Burning Gates, Gitane Demone and The Brickbats. Plus of course many reviews from gothalbums... (CONTACT : KARIN, WARTHESTRASSE 16, 12051 BERLIN, DEUTSCHL.)

ZOOP! NEWSLETTER

Not really a zine, but still a very important factor for the underground as any kind of promotion is needed these days. Zoop! is also a distro-system and they have a wide range from hardcore, punk and gothstuff. (CONTACT : ZOOP!, 43 RUE MAL FOCH, 01000 BOURG, FRANCE)

THE MEDUSA TOUCH N°1

I'm not going to review my own zine, but still I wanna say that apart from this zine I'm also doing a fanzine dedicated to the most important band this world has ever known. And if you ask "who?", then there's something very wrong with you...of course it's Clan Of Xymox! (CONTACT : Fuck it, you know where I live)

ITCHY BUM N°8

Hilarious zine written by an editor called Cookie. Cookie says he's not writing a punkzine, he can recognize every Oi!-band but he also knows who Rachel Stamp, Murph, Atomika, Seafruit, Anathema and Paradise Lost are... Still he hasn't told us if he has an itchy bum or not... (CONTACT : COOKIE, 6 HOLYROOD CLOSE, DONINGTON, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE11 4SP, U.K.)

AQUAMARINE N°16

Do we need to introduce Kim Harten? I think not, not only is Kim doing her well respected Bliss Tapes (which is a bit The Original Sin on tapeform if I might say so...) but she also runs Aquamarine, a zine I see as a sort of inspiration...so yes, this is very underground (almost all styles!!!)(CONTACT : KIM, 68 BARLICH WAY, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH, WORCS, B08 7JP, U.K.)

REPEAT N°14

Do we need to introduce Rosey? Of course not, they even have found the favour of the Melody Maker with their Alcopop-release. And what about the zine? Not mentioned by the Maker, but those who say it's a Manics-zine are blind fools. Of course The Manics have lots of pages, but what are you going to do with the other 300 bands that are mentioned in here? (CONTACT : ROSEY, 7 FERRY LANE, CHESTERTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 1NT, U.K.)

MAUL N°10

Another gothmag! Yummy, yummy, yummy! Again it's written in German (simply cos the gothscene is massive in Germany). Apart from clubinformation, reviews and other useful information there are articles about Die Untoten (excellent goth band that we will write a lot about!), The Dust Of Basement, Shadow Project, The Creatures and Die Form. (CONTACT : SONIC MALADE, PO 440 107, 12001 BERLIN, DEUTSCHLAND)

ORIGINAL SIN'S DISCOBAR

Here it is again...the famous Original Sin's discobar! Is there any DJ around who is brave enough to play one of these records? Yeah, there are some but just not enough as all the following releases may be underground but they all deserve to get heard... And what's more, from now on we will include all the internetaddresses as well, you futuristic bastards! Enjoy, laugh, cry...but most of all : listen!!!

BIO-TEK Punishment for decadence (CD)(Doppler Effect Recs)

Maybe it's a matter of growing up but last years I really became alienated from everything that is known as "the scene created by journals for those who'd like to be regarded as cool". Not only is it only one of the many scenes but it really isn't all that cool after all. You search and search and now I tend to say that the most innovating sounds can be found in the so called "dark scene"...a very wide scene that goes from pure goth to pure EBM. Whatever you may read, just give it a chance. So it's kind of fantastic to start these reviewpages with a very exciting band that comes from the EBM-area. For those who haven't understand it yet, EBM is more than reproducing the electronic beats from Front 242, Skinny Puppy or Front Line Assembly. Today there are hundreds of EBM-bands who have developed an own style themselves...names like VNV Nation, Dive, Funkervogt or L'Amé Immortelle say enough. You can also add Bio-Tek to that list. "Punishment for decadence" is Bio-Tek's third album (Jonathan Sharp, the British electronic artist who is behind this project, released his previous two albums on 2oth Ummog which is a bit the label that restarted the whole EBM-movement) and it's a mix from hard electronic beats (all in pure In Strict Confidence-style!), an adoration for the rather bizarre things in life (hence the handcuffs and bondage-items that are on the CD-sleeve) and the chilling electronic sounds that are the classic trademark of those so called "dark products". With his third album Jonathan releases his stuff on a new American label Doppler Effect (it's founded in 1996) which is specialized in electronic and industrial music. And that's what you get on here, also included on here is a rather strange version from Placebo hit "Pure Morning" (CONTACT : DOPPLER EFFECT RECORDS, PO BOX 6417, BEAVERTON, OR 97007-0417, USA)(<http://www.sonic-boom.com/dfx/>)

FAITH & THE MUSE Evidence of heaven (CD)(Neue Aesthetik Multimedia)
The biggest names from the American gothscene must be London After Midnight simply cos they succeed in coming up with a sort of music that breaks your heart in two. "Evidence of heaven", the latest Faith & The Muse is a work from a band who must have an immense respect for the music made by their goth-forefathers...more than once you hear those typical Siouxsie & The Banshees guitars or even more the influence from old 4-AD artists like This Mortal Coil, early Dead Can Dance or The Cocteau Twins. William Faith and Monica Richards have dedicated this album to Rozz Williams, founder of Christian Death who passed away two years ago...and even if it sounds sinister I think Faith & The Muse can take the place Christian Death left open after everything went wrong. This album will satisfy all those who want morbid sounds wrapped into classic gothsounds. (CONTACT : NEUE AESTHETIK MULTIMEDIA, PO BOX 174, MURRAY HILL STATION NY, NY 10156, USA)(www.aesthetik.com)

SVN The human vice (CD)(SVN Produktion)
Maybe George Orwell wasn't that wrong when once he predicted the future... machines are taking over, they control you whether you want it or not, and when people can make great music with them I'm the last person on earth who is going to complain. SVN are a trio from Potsdam (that's in Germany!) whose first taperelease came out in 1995, but this is their first release on CD. The whole CD is dominated by the synth-sounds (from drum 'n bass to EBM to industrial) and some songs are very brutal (a bit Nine Inch Nails-like) and others are more sounding like experimental synthpop (...whatever that might be!). This sort of music is big



in Germany and it just makes you hope that this sort of music is getting bigger anywhere else. It's not what you might call 'pretty' music but isn't it time we get rid off from all that troubadour-nonsense? With music like this there's no need to have drugs around, with its paralyzing effect the drug is the music itself... (CONTACT : SVN, C/O P. BABECK, BIBERKIEZ 3, 14478 POTSDAM, DEUTSCHLAND)(<http://members.tripod.de/independent/svn.html>)

PH BALANCE Ph Balance (CD)(Daemon Records)

Strange name you say? Well, that's why I thought as well but luckily enough they have invented press-sheets and so I soon discovered that Ph stands for Pam Howe. Pam is a female singer who is already 12 years on stage and she already has played with big pop stars (Pat Benatar is one of them...and I do know that she's still huge in the States). Don't worry, you don't get bland AOR-rock on here. Pam is one of those performers with a soulful voice (a sort of Sheryl Crow-version from Aretha Franklin) and her voice leads you through trip hop sounds (think Morcheeba or perhaps closer Moloko), jazzy sounds (does anyone remember Carmel?) and it definitely works best when there are those hip hop interludes (mellow hip hop in pure Company Flow-style). So now you know for what Ph Balance stands for... (CONTACT : DAEMON RECORDS, PO BOX 1207, DECATUR, GA 30031, USA)(www.monsterbit.com/daemon)

KILL HANNAH Here are the young moderns (CD)(Own release)
Do I need to go on? Honestly, I still can't believe that this masterpiece has landed on my doormat...watch my words in three years time (...always better if it will be three months time!) this band will be extremely huge ...probably as big as The Smashing Pumpkins (they have relations with Matt Walker who used to be in the Pumpkins!). "Here are the young moderns" is the band's first album (they already have a new one out which will be reviewed later...I just wanna hype them as much as possible, you see?). Before I start to talk about their music, it's also important to say some things about their image! They may be unsigned yet, but they already do look like the coolest popstars you can think of! Kill Hannah are a glamband who understand how proper rockstars have to look like...boys wearing ties and lipstick...lipstickstripes on their chest in pure Adam & The Ants-style, a girl (that's the ultragorgeous Kerry) wearing a feather boa and I could go on and on! And then there's the music... Well, let's say it's glamrock added with the finest guitariffs (a bit 80's like...sometimes a bit like early Echo & The Bunnymen!) ...and as brilliant as Garbage or The Dandy Warhols. So you already have understood it, Kill Hannah are the band we need...Kill Hannah will be huge...oh, and if in 2003 you will have a Kill Hannah-poster hanging in your room, remember where you have read it first!!! Write them before they're turning into superstars who are to huge to approach! (CONTACT : KILL HANNAH, C/O DAVIDSON MANDELL & MENKES, SUITE 1900, 303 WEST MADISON, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606, USA)(www.killhannah.com)



THRILL RACER Walk in your shoes (CD-single)(Own release)



A very familiar face Thrill is... Why? Cos we believe in her, cos we love her, cos she's cool and mostly cos she's making great music (...or were you expecting me to hype someone who has an enormous stampcollection??). I've already said Thrill Racer sounds a bit like Nico...but it's more like something what would happen if suddenly Brett Anderson's place in Suede would be replaced by that girl who made The Velvet Underground such an immortal band. "Walk in your shoes" is a sort of uptempo indierock-song with a bitter aftertaste (simply cos it goes a bit deeper than your usual indiesong). If you don't believe me you can hear the song yourself on Thrill's website... (CONTACT : THRILL RACER, PO BOX 506565, SAN DIEGO, CA 92150-6565, USA)(<http://www.ocsltd.com/thrillracer/>)

THE DODGY STEREO-PROJECT

I'm not sure if this belongs to the reviewsection...but then again all those reviews were never supposed to be 'proper' reviews but more at matter of informing you what's going on in the underground...you know the drill, not?

Have you noticed Teen-C suffered a slow death? There's no longer speak about Bis-copyists...and hey, there aren't even that many zines around who give you a free balloon or a free lollypop! Was it all in vain then? Well, seeing sir Cliff Richard having a No.1 hit with his (shit)interpretation of "Our Holy Father" would make you say yes...but for all those of you who were waiting for Cliff doing his "Eurodisco"-version let me say...that you must be a bit stupid. And still Teen-C was important (in fact ultra-important) as it evoked a sort of new punk that goes under the banner of "...if nobody cares, do it the DIY-way!!!!". And that's what Dodgy Stereo is all about... A sort of recordlabel that doesn't follow the usual politics (we're not promoting ourselves in the way they promote Supergrass as it only will be wasted time...and worse wasted money!). No, this is about a strong selfbelief, this is about doing what you wanna do, this is trying to be heard with the cheapest methods around...gosh, it sounds like Teen-C!!! Dodgy Stereo also promotes their bands on the internet...and yes, thousands of others are doing it as well but hey there are thousands of brilliant bands around nobody cares about as well!!! On Dodgy Stereo you can find bands like Translycent Knees (punk with humour, punk with taste...everything punk should be), Flophip (maybe they can re-invent the Teen-C revolution), Kidd Dynamo (very Sparklehorse-ish), The Yee-ha's (...the name says it all) and Cecil's Flea Circus (remember Dweeb, remember Disco Pistol, remember The Undertones, remember why people got fed up by Mike & The Mechanics, remember The Mute Drivers, remember why the best music came from bands with the worst names...)(CONTACT : DODGY STEREO, C/O BARRY, 2 IVANHOE AVENUE, CARRYPUFF, BELFAST, BT8 8BN, N. IRELAND)(No internet-information)

SYNDROME Demotape

I got this demotape with a sheet that contains fifteen things you never knew about Syndrome. Totally useless as I can easily think of five hundred things I don't know about Syndrome...like is the singer a secret car mechanic??? Does it matter? Of course not, unless if you're a sado who simply wants to know everything...but maybe the most important "unknown" thing is said in the line "Syndrome couldn't care less what you think as long as you think". And what do we think? Quite OK! Not brilliant, not average as well. Just a band who has lots of interesting ideas and if you hear a song like "Look above" it's even more than just an interesting idea. They have the drama-factor Shed Seven has in their songs, they surely want to transform their popsongs into epics like Mansun do so well, even if they are British they sound more Sonic Youth then The Verve...enough!!! Syndrome say "Syndrome will not define their music, work it out for yourself..." (CONTACT : SYNDROME, 24 WATERMILL CLOSE, HARN, RICHMOND, SURREY, TW9 7UH, U.K.)(www.syndrome.fsnet.co.uk)

VARISPEED Demotape

I'm sure you'll agree that describing unknown indieguitarbands isn't the most easy task there is. Problem is that there must be tenthousands of guitarbands around who sound good and making "it" usually depends on the needed dose of luck. In any case I'm happy Varispeed are no Manics-copyists, no Stereophonics copyists, no Radioheadcopyists, no 3 Colours Red-copyists and yet they come up with a recognisable style. How come? Well, it has all the classical ingredients (nice tunes, jingle-jangle indierockguitars, sing-a-long choruses) that makes an indiesong an indiesong. No, it won't change your world but it really would surprise me if this was their aim...if their goal is to give you a good time then they have passed the test... (CONTACT : TOUCHIN' BASS MANAGEMENT, PO BOX 703, BRISTOL, BS99 5LS, U.K.)(e-mail : wow@netmatters.co.uk)

MOLOCH Samplertape

Some people are complaining that The Fall aren't the band they used to be, and that's a question I ask myself as a Fall-devotee quite a lot. But for those who are longing to hear that bizarre Punk-DIY thing Mark E. Smith used to make in the early 80's I can say Moloch can be your answer! There are those typical Fall-vocals, that same bass-pattern, that cheap Casio-keyboard sound that has more effect then the most expensive keyboard you can imagine, this is the sound from a band with a "I against the world"-attitude, it sounds like it is recorded in a dusty basement but still it comes over as something perfect, it's the sound from a band who want everything except compromises... Hhhmmmm, it feels like I'm reviewing "This Nation's Saving Grace" by The Fall!!! Good stuff! (CONTACT : MOLOCH, C/O CHRIS UNDERWOOD, 16910 S.W. TERRACE, HOMESTEAD,



FL 33030, USA)(e-mail : bluntzml@aol.com)

MELATONE Demotape

The manager from Melatone thinks Matthew Berry, who is the brain of Melatone, is a really talented songwriter. Of course it's not only an obvious thing (why else would he manage them?) and everybody thinks they're talented songwriters these days. The songs themselves are quite good, but it's in the way Matthew performs them! This is glamrock with lots of melancholic sounds... Imagine David Bowie, The Sweet, Slade or T. Rex being influenced by the cinematic pop of Pulp or Rialto and you have all the ingredients Melatone are using in their songs. Cinematic glampop... uuummm, really sounds nice to describe a band, not? (CONTACT : TRISH HILLIS, FLAT 1, 8 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5 2ES, U.K.)

BALLOONATIC Demotape

Maybe we can start a campaign complaining that artists refuse to follow the usual paths they're supposed to follow. Take only Matthew Berry from above mentioned Melatone, just like promoting one unsigned band isn't enough Matthew has a side-project and it has nothing to do with the above described music of Melatone. If ever you'd force me to say who's best I definitely would go for Balloonatic as they're making the sort of music which makes me fall at my knees saying 'yes, that was the thing I was waiting for'. On Balloonatic's music the vocals are done by Jo and together with synths (and guitars in pure Bunny-men style!) they're creating a sort of melancholic synthpop that automatically will remind you of Saint Etienne, Dubstar, The Other Two and Trembling Blue Stars. After having heard this, I totally agree with his manager... that guy is really a talented songwriter... he's even the creator of very beautiful dreams. Essential for those who are looking for dreampop! (CONTACT : see Melatone)



AMY K. Original Sins (Demotape)



If it comes to titles, there's no contest... naming your tape "Original Sins" is the best you can do and naming something like this makes you a genius... Hhhmmmm, anyone disagreeing here? Anyway, Amy K's music is a very weird thing. According to Amy her fave place to gig is in the forest with the butt on a log in front of a campfire and good friends all around. Is it boring hippyshit then... is it people doing horrible John Lennon-covers then? If only it was easy as this as so it wasn't such a pain in the ass doing her music any justice! Amy K is singer-songwriter stuff at its spookiest!!! At seconds she sounds as soft as Suzanne Vega, but other seconds it's like Nico has risen out of her grave... or imagine the more tribal influenced songs by The Doors (and of course thinking that Jim Morrison had a female voice). The hippy-spirit is here but there are lots of other ghosts guesting in here! (CONTACT : AMY K, PO BOX 120, ROXBURY, CT 06783, USA)(e-mail : amykalishe@hotmail.com)

HEBEPHRENIC Hide (Taperelease)(Tapehiss)

"In the fall of 1990 I had a class in psychopathology where I learned all about the various names for mental states and decided that I would call my project Hebephrenic since it was the closest match to the mood I was trying to convey with the music I was making" says Scott Carr. Music for mad people? A bit yeah as this music works a bit like Scanner, but instead of conversations on the phone, Scott found his inspiration in the beeping tunes from videogames he was playing with in the early 80's. Sometimes the sounds are a bit infantile, but in a good way... just remember how great "Da Da Da" from Trio was! Hebephrenic's music is also diverse... there's some stuff in pure Tangerine Dream-style, others are bedroom pop à la BabyBird, sometimes it's even a bit like new wave nutters Devo. This man surely hasn't found his style yet, but why should he? Musicians are supposed to be magicians and the magician who is only using his rabbit-trick doesn't end up in the big MagicBook... (CONTACT : TAPEHISS, 260 N. KESWICK AVE, APT.C, GLENSIDE, PA19038, USA)(http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tape_hiss)



EPOCH Demotape



What the hell is this? Jeeez, never heard something like this before and according to the many reviews I read in their blog I'm not the only person who thinks so! Epoch are making music under the term of 'space-metal' and the name perfectly defines the music as they're mixing prog-rock/space-rock (so that's Hawkwind, Rush,...) with extreme brutal metal (think Napalm Death or like Zeitgeist-zine says Cannibal Corpse). And this is maybe one of the most brutal noises I have ever reviewed but thing is that it's super-melodic. Some of you might reject this without a listen but that'd be stupid as there is so many in here that will surprise lots of different people. For the metalfans it can be a sort of "unheard" type of metal and for those who like their indie stuff this can be like Dark Star (yeah, Dark Star!) supported by Mr. Satan himself. Check this out especially as the band will tape you their music if you give 'em a free tape and trades with zines or other bands are wellcome. Just don't blame me if your mum kicks you out the house! (CONTACT : EPOCH, C/O JASON BARRISKILL, 35 WHITESIDES HILL, BALLYWORKAN, PORTADOWN, CO.ARMAGH, BT63 3RJ, N. IRELAND)(No internet-info)

MOGUL I was starving hungry in Tesco's (7"inch)

(Fortuna Pop!) They're back!!! After having had releases on Boa and Org and turning Oasis into bedroom synthpop (if only the Gallaghers could turn into something like that) Mogul are releasing their new single on Fortuna Pop!. The label that brought us The Butterflies Of Love, Mark 700, Twinkie and so many others are offering us four Mogul-tracks on a lovely 7"inch format. Those who know Mogul know what to expect, and for the others... well this is a DIY-synthpop that automatically puts you back in time, in a decade where Soft Cell were Top Of The Pops-stars, where OMD penned down classics such as "Electricity", where Kraftwerk were the most influential band ever... This is all you need when you're looking for perfect synthpop music... God, their songs do already sounds like classics! Bring back the 80's, we need retro... as long as they don't give us back Toto or Foreigner!!! (CONTACT : FORTUNA POP!, 4 WELL YARD CLOSE, SHEPshed, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS, LE12 9TG, UK) (E-mail : fortuna_pop@bigfoot.com)



VARIOUS ARTISTS We're not alone-songs for the lo-fi generation (Taperelease)

(Best Kept Secret) It's an insane thing Alessandro from Best Kept Secret is doing! Every two weeks or so the man comes up with a new taperelease. Some of them are full albums (on tapeformat) and others are, like this one, a compilation (there are more than 25 bands included on here!). Seek for no answers, this guy is just obsessed by music and throughout his obsession he does everything he can to support small bands who unfortunately will always be doomed to be underdogs. Sometimes the sound is crap but that's due to money (...and come on, does it mean that if you're not having an expensive studio you may not make music?), sometimes it's like you're at the bedroom from the performers... I mean this is real lo-fi, it's lo-fi because there's just no other way to record it and that's the charmest thing on here. And as for the music itself... well, that's up to you to discover but it really is very diverse, from "OK folkmusic" to "superb Kraftwerk-muzik". (CONTACT : BEST KEPT SECRET, C/O ALESSANDRO CRESTANI, VIA BIRON DI SOTTO 101, 36100 VICENZA, ITALIA)(e-mail : acrestani@telemar.it)

SIX INCH KILLAZ Seventeen (Demotape)

With a name like that you're kind of expecting to deal with a hip-hop band but this is something completely different. This is glamrock performed by five travestites and judging it on the three songs who are on this tape this is not a manufactured band by some manager! (...although the concept itself is original enough to fill the tabloids as I think, if my musical memories serve me well, it's since the discoqueen Divine that there was a succesful dragact). But that's the image... Point is that the band don't need to have it, it's a bonus, as this is perfectly played glampop that has all the elements from

The Sweet, Marc Bolan, Sigue Sigue Sputnik, David Bowie in his Ziggy-period and it also sounds very Romo-ish (the best hype the weeklies have ever created). Drag Glam-Rock, anyone? (CONTACT : SIX INCH KILLAZ, C/O LUIS HATRED, 41 MANTON AVE, HANWELL, LONDON, W7 2DY, U.K.)(No internet-information)

THE CULTIVATORS Mama's Kitchen (CD)(Hayden's Ferry Records)
This is music for purists, music for people who like to have their music perfectly played and want to have their songs delivered as a "complete package" cos I guess that's the sort of music which is also typified as AOR. A sort of combination from country, blues, rock 'n roll and uptempo-beat songs in early R.E.M.-style. All this got created by Dan Israel who started his singing career as a street artist, and with the voice he has it wouldn't surprise me at all if Bob Dylan or Steve Forbert-songs ended up in his songset. But it's surely so that the man's talent deserves more than that and you can hear that on here. The sole thing I'm complaining about is the production which is a bit too flat (it's just too perfect and I'm sure it would be more adventurous if it was recorded in a Lambchop-type of way). But then again some people want to hear a perfect studiosound, and if they like country-rock they surely going to like this. (CONTACT : DAN ISRAEL, 4430 CEDAR LAKE ROAD #3, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416, USA)(http://www.haydensferry.com/israel.htm)

GRASP Skylarkin' South (Tapesingle)
Just like there is no Happy Mondays without Shaun or no Suede without Brett, I think there will be no Grasp without Katrina. Sure, the music is fine played but the main force of this cute little band (who's getting more and more famous) lies in the lovely voice from this girl. On this tape you get two songs and if you're into female powerpop (Belly, Echobelly, Sleeper...) added with a dreamy landscape-sound reminiscent to the Phil Spector-sound then Grasp are a band worth your attention. Oh, and if this band will be famous once don't be that surprised that their song, "Young, foolish and lonely" will be used as the maintheme of the next James Bond-movie! (CONTACT : GRASP, C/O KATRINA RAINBOW, 44A QUARRY RIGG, LAKE ROAD, BOWNESS, LA23 3DT, U.K.)(No internet-info)

PEAL Demotape
They're from Cardiff and some will say they're sounding like The Stereophonics (not in the least because they supported them...and of course the Welsh relation) but I think they're not simply cos they're not boring. OK enough slagging off The Stereophonics, you know I hate them and Peal are just (an other) proof that there's nothing wrong with rockmusic. They rock (umm...that's why they call it rockmusic), write good melodies ("Roses & The Thorns" is as haunting as "Wide Open Space" by Mansun) and it easily can be stated as "sensible rockpop". Great to hear the band are planning to record some stuff with Midge Ure (for those who don't know, he's the singer from Ultravox!) and that surely will be something interesting. Oh, and after playing the tape three times in a row, it's already impossible not to hum the chorus of opener "Whatever makes U happy". Not bad at all! (CONTACT : PEAL, FLAT 4, N°4 SHIRLEY RD, ROATH, CARDIFF, CF23 5HN, U.K.)(No internet-info)



PICTURE CENTER Hope and dead... (7"inch)(Plastic Pancake)
Some basic-info to start with. Plastic Pancake is a tiny label coming from France which so far has released plenty of great singles. You can compare it to Fortuna Pop as not only they have a sort of vast pattern if it comes to music but it also has all the elements that make you say "This is a Plastic Pancake-release!". You know what I'm talking about...the covers, bands who are always coming back. Not music released on a label without personality but more something like 4-AD, Factory, early Creation or Third Mind. Here we have the debutsingle from Picture Center who are from Britain. Sarah Records-fans will be delighted to know that this band features an ex-member from The Field Mice (one of the biggest cultbands of the 90's!) and sure the music sounds a bit like that...dreamy poptunes, but that's also where the story ends as it's like Picture Center seek territories The Field Mice never explored. It's a sort of Cowboy Junkies/Luna/Mojave 3 type of thing. Campfire music if you want but the campfire is replaced by candles which give it all a romantic feel you don't find that often in today's popmusic! (CONTACT : PLASTIC PANCAKE, 180 CHEMIN DES PITOUS, 82000 MONTAUBAN, FRANCE)(No internet-info)

RIVER Spiderman (7"inch)(Plastic Pancake)
Listening to a release on Plastic Pancake just makes you laugh as if it's just as if time stood still (...and that's said in a positive way). This could have easily been released in 1986 or so, at a time in where early Wedding Present-records and 7"inch from The Orchids were the things to follow. This is jingle jangle pop from France, and if you want back music like The Flatmates, Mexico 70 or The Heavenly then this is a right purchase. If you think Soundgarden sounds much better then it's only a waste of time. (CONTACT : see above)

TIMO Quiet songs (Taperelease)(Kaw Tapes)
Does anyone know how many songs this man has written? Every tapelabel (or at least the most famous ones) have released a tapealbum by him...and that means 90 minutes of music! There are two different sides on this tape. One has songs which are done with an electric guitar and the other side features songs that are done in an acoustic way. The biggest problem I have with Timo is the man's voice as he has a sort of "bluesy" Rod Stewart-voice and you really have to love his voice when you decide to listen to 90 minutes of Timo's music. I'm afraid it's just a bit too much for me but listeners who'd like to hear a bluesy-version from Billy Bragg (but with a more sarcastic aftertaste) will find lots of pleasure into this taperelease. (CONTACT : KAW TAPES, 94 MAIN ST., FORTH, LANARKSHIRE, ML11 8AB, U.K.)(No internet-info)

SHY RIGHTS MOVEMENT Live & Dead (Taperelease)(Kaw Tapes)
This is the last piece of work that has Shy Rights Movement as a 4-piece band as both the drummer and bassist have quit the band, but no worries as they simply will keep on going as a duo. I'm just saying this as they're the sort of band who know what it means to have "undergroundsuccess in the tapecircuit". Shy Rights Movement are making a sort of indie-folk that sounds a bit like The Triffids, The Go-Betweens or Atzec Camera (read again those names and remember I took them as a reference as it are bands who know what quality-songs stands for!). I still can't decide whether it's a shame or a godsend that bands like these are into the 'tapecircuit' (a truth is that they just deserve more, and other truth is that the rawness from the production, also to be read as shortage of money, gives it an extra charm that would go lost if they would do this in a more expensive production). Some of the songs on here are liverecordings...all fine, although you often tend to yell 'Can the audience please shut their mouth for one minute???' (CONTACT : see above)

GRRZZZ Demotape
Pour les amis francophones : j'ai des bonnes nouvelles car ce groupe a l'esprit de Bérurier Noir! And for those who don't understand French, it means I can explain the whole thing. Grrzzz (how do they find names as such?) are from Paris but there isn't one hint of Parisian romantic in here as this is rhythmic electro-punk. Punk with a rhythm box, punk that has the aggression from Carter, The Unstoppable Sexmachine-songs...punk that has the groovy beats early PIL-records used to have, punk with a gothic-touch. Some say they are like The Bollock Brothers, others hear some B52's into their music, one reviewer even mentioned David Bowie as a reference. Can you still follow??? I suppose not...just listen! (CONTACT : GRRZZZ, 15 RUE POUCHET, 75017 PARIS, FRANCE)

BLOODTHIRSTY MASSACRE The common enemy (Demotape)
The name of the band (Hmmm, in fact it's a one-man project!) says it all, this is music at its most brutal, there's no pause so you can rest...this is the continuing shockwave-sounds murderers are getting while they're on the electric chair. I think I'm going to call this extreme death-techno. What you get are aggressive Atari Teenage Riot-beats, deathcore-guitars, a growling voice and every song lasts about three minutes. It's pure adrenalin, if this doesn't keep you awake then you're in a very deep coma! Shock your grandparents and play this at an extremely loud volume so they can say the words you always wanted to hear "Boy oh boy...I think you're insane!..." (CONTACT : PAUL HUTTON, 41 AINSLIE STREET, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA, LA12 7JB, U.K.)(Internet : thirst@tinyworld.co.uk)

S.A.A.E.I./DE MADELIEFJES Spittape (Taperelease)(Mangled Maggot Stew)
This taperelease contains the warning "seriously damages the health". Being a chainsmoker myself I'm not in the least impressed as I read it three times an hour every time I take a fag, but it's quite useful when it comes to this.

First there is S.A.A.E.I. which stands for "schijt aan alles en iedereen" which is Dutch for "A big fuck off to everything and everyone" and it really sounds like this. It's a sort of grindcore that uses lots of "extremely funny" parts from tellyprogrammes...sometimes it's hilarious and sometimes they sound like a garageversion from Steppenwolf. Bizarre, I say. On the other side you can hear De Madeliefjes (which is an other Dutch word which can have the meaning of two things. Or they mean the ordinary flower or they mean women who are easy convinced for a fuck...whores if that sounds better). I wouldn't say this is less bizarre then S.A.A.E.I. but yet it's totally different. Once again we're dealing with a grindcoreband but it feels more like a David Lynch-movie. The opening song may be a bit like Death In June but the rest is a very unusual mix from grindcore/deathcore with industrial sounds (something like the stuff on Cold Meat Industry). At times it sounds quite creepy as it's like you're in the middle of hell...a very exciting release! (CONTACT : MOMBIE, PO BOX 62, 5700 AB HELMOND, THE NETHERLANDS)(No internet-info)

ANIMAL HOSPITAL Demotape

Despite the rather bad soundquality you can hear in which direction French band Animal Hospital wanna go. The three members found themselves in a rather unique way as it was female singer Anne's ambition to play in a band. Their sound lies close to the American indiesounds from Sleater-Kinney, Yo La Tengo or that other French band Superstar DiscoClub. Not earthshocking yet, but give them some time (and money to record everything in a proper way) and they will come up with something very beautiful... (CONTACT : ANIMAL HOSPITAL, C/O ANNE BACHELEY, 40 RUE R. COURTEHEUSE, 14210 CHEUX, FRANCE)(<http://www.multimania.com/annebacheley/animalhospital.html>)



HOT TIN ROOF A brighter day (CD)(Quicksilver Rcs.)

Ten years ago British indiepop (I nearly don't dare to use the word Britpop!) was too funny to be taken seriously (Wonderstuff, Kingmaker) and when it reached its high point it was just too serious (you surely know which bands I mean!). Why not combine the two? If you do, you'll end up sounding like Hot Tin Roof who are a new British trio who surely will remind you of Dodgy or even Crowded House. They're not that original as I'm sure you'll find lots of other bands who have a sound like them but I still can't deny they know the skills of writing catchy pop tunes. (CONTACT : BLAG, 48 HAMBLETON ROAD, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS, B63 1HH, U.K.)(<http://members.aol.com/blagmail/index.htm>)



THE RED EYES Up to your eyes in it (CD)(Own Release)



Mighty lord!!! If you hear this album you can only come to one conclusion : "They must be in love with The Stiff Little Fingers!" and reading their biog, you know they are...they even have supported them. If "Stiff Little Fingers" sounds like some Arabic for you then I can say it like this : "80's punk that became immortal cos it was more about melodies rather than attitude". Not that attitude wasn't important or so but it's not because you're wearing a "No Future"-badge that you can claim you're a great musician! The Red Eyes understood this and they make look like ordinary people but the punkfactor is in their music. Some songs ("What the censor saw" for instance) would fit fine on those albums "Classic Punk from the 80's" you play now and then...and that is a victory. Great punkrock-album, boys!!! (CONTACT : THE RED EYES, C/O ALAN BISHOP, 2/2 83 DUMBARTON ROAD, CLYDEBANK, G81 1UE, U.K.)(E-mail : mugs zetnet.co.uk)

VARIOUS ARTISTS Electroshock presents Electroacoustic music Vol.3 (Electro-Shock)

When there is a documentary about Russian music you tend to think that they're

twenty years behind as all they can show are pathetic hardrockbands who rip off Iron Maiden-guitarriffs or bad Bruce Springsteen wanna be's. It really makes you laugh but at the same time it also makes you sad as if those documentary-directors would know their underground, they'd come up with something total different. Did you know that there is a totally unique musical movement over there? I suppose not if you don't read zines, but those who do will surely recognize the name of Mr. Artemiy Artemiev. He's the engine behind the so-called Electroacoustic-scene which is a sort of blend from classical music, industrial and ambient. Fans from electronic music are recommended to lend an ear to this label as they're often shiny stars in the big undergrounduniverse. Seventy minutes long you hear musical pieces from seven composers and everything can be found on here. One minute it's like you're on the set of "A clockwork Orange" and then it's like you're in the middle of a nightmare from which you can't escape. In no way this comes over as arty-bollocks as the created atmospheres are its most direct. (CONTACT : ARTEMIY ARTEMIYEV, UL. KRILATSKAYA 31-1-321, 121614 MOSCOW, RUSSIA)(Gamma-Shop:www.gamma-shop.com)

ARTEMIY ARTEMIYEV Mysticism of sound (CD)(ElectroShock)

Artemiy is making it quite easy for me to describe the sound of this CD as the title speaks for it self...these are mystic sounds created by synthesizers. You get 4 songs on here (songs aren't the right words...all of them last 15 minutes and they're more like tales). Maybe it's because of the titles but it's like I'm listening to a modern version of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an exhibition" (there is a song on here that is dedicated to the pictures of Bosch and Pieter Bruegel!). Lots of moods on here, sometimes it reminds you of Ryuichi Sakamoto, other pieces are pure Philipp Glass and I even can hear some Clan Of Xymox in here (especially the type of songs they're using as intros).

EDWARD ARTEMIYEV Solaris/The mirror/Stalker (CD)(Electroshock)

Time to come up with some history-facts! Edward is Artemiy's father and after hearing the man's music it's not that difficult to find out where Artemiy learned his skills as perhaps Edward Artemiev might be one of the most ignored classical composers ever. Apart from some fame in Russia, the man never got the succes other electro-classical composers (Tangerine Dream, Mike Oldfield, Jean-Michel Jarre, Kitaro, Vangelis, Kraftwerk,...) had and when you realise this stuff was made in the 70's (just check out who the so-called geniuses of music where back then!) you can only say he was a bit ahead of his time. This CD is a sort of collection from soundtracks he made for films by Andrei Tarkovsiy (moviefans will already recognise the man as he was a bit the Russian version of Stanley Kubrick). Edward's music isn't that experimental as the one performed by his son, it's more a chilled-out spacey electronic music but yet another proof that underrated geniuses always were around...

VARIOUS ARTISTS Ans-Archive Tapes Synthesizer Ans 1946-1971 (CD)(Electroshock)

A record released by Electroshock can only mean one thing...we're dealing with electroacoustic music! If you want to know how that sounds like, just read the above reviews! On this CD we can hear several Russian composers who used the ANS. What is that, I hear you say. Well, ANS is the first Russian synthesizer ever made (maybe it could also be the first synthesizer of the world). E. Murzin, the creator of the instrument, only made on copy of it and it still has its place in a museum somewhere in Moscow. Throughout the years many Russian composers composed some music on it and this CD represents these works. It's maybe the most difficult Electroshock-release I have ever heard as this is a very vague music, at times it's even close to the indus-stuff released by bands like Zoviet France. A nice curiosity but I certainly wouldn't recommend this if you'd like to discover the electro-acoustic world as this is more for the dedicated fans.

LIAR'S PARADISE Liar's Paradise (CD)(Independent Opposition)

Liar's Paradise is one of the many musical outlets from Matt Frantz who says he's interested in using music for purposes other than dancing. Well, dancing is the last thing you think of when hearing this as it's maybe music at its most experimental and even if he takes things really far on here, he never forgets that he's composing music so the term 'melody' is always included in here. Excuse me for saying but this feels like listening to the music of someone who has a sick mind (don't worry about it that much, Matt, as I'm sick myself!) but he uses so many styles on here (from Skinny Puppy-beats to cello) and all he wants to do is reach your soul. According to Matt this record

analyses this world in which we live. This record reflects how it feels to lie and how it feels to be lied to. Well, this music sounds a bit like our world as I don't know how to handle this as well...just like the world this CD fucks up my mind! 99% of the worldpopulation will say Liar's Paradise are pure shite while that other remaining 1% will obviously say it's genius...it's your choice!!! (CONTACT : MATT FRANTZ, PO BOX 31248, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45231, USA) (<http://1.am/independentopposition>)

PRIMAL SCREAM Exterminator (CD)(Creation)

Some months ago indieworld was in shock as Creation came to its end. Okay, the backcatalogue might be impressive but let's forget not the most important factor why they stopped : almost all their signings were pure crap except for this extra-ordinary band. Two years ago I couldn't believe my ears when "Vanishing Point" landed on my stereo as it's just one of those perfect records every band wish to made. I don't know if it has something to do with ex-Stone Roses Mani but since he joined the band they have developped from "very good band" to "one of the unmissable ones". And let's not forget that they're also responsible for "Screamadelica", the album that mixed dancemusic with indie-guitarmusic for the very first time. At first listen "Exterminator" sounds as a difficult album simply cos Primal Scream are doing something completely new on here as it's like they're mixing now the raw primal rock from The Stooges with the dance-innovations which are made by the likes of Fatboy Slim or The Chemical Brothers. It may sounds as pure shit on paper but this record really is the vitamin pill lots of today's bands are recommended to swallow as not one second you have the feeling that you've heard it before. I know it's a bit too soon to say it already but it's like the masterpiece of 2000 is already made as it's surely as groundbreaking as "Loveless" by My Bloody Valentine. Mark my words, it'll be ignored now but in ten years time it will be regarded as one of the most important albums of all time. Alan McGee can leave his Creation-office with pride as history is written (once again).

COVENANT United states of mind (CD)(Mindbase)

It's Covenant with a "c" and that's quite important as there is also an other band around who are called Kovenant and they're making a sort of death-metal. Anyway, fans of Covenant don't need no introduction as they're one of the pioneers that made it possible that synthpop was no longer a monopoly for Depeche Mode. These Swedish electro-meisters are quite big in Germany and Belgium and listening to 'United States Of Mind' explains why as they do more then just reproducing Depeche Mode. On this album there are lots of 80's sounds included (from Neue Deutsche Welle-acts such as Fehlfarben to the militaric dancebeats of D.A.F.). Sure, it's a retro-thing and if this CD was marked with a "made in 1984"-sign you wouldn't hear any difference but at here we don't care about things as such...

FLINCH All Day Breakfast (CD)(Holier Than Thou)

I've never been into grunge myself. The songs were quite OK but it just sounded too American (...and then I'm referring to the feared FM-factor) in my ears and I often felt desperated as I liked the songs and the atmosphere but it all got destroyed by both the concept and image (...I guess that's the main reason why I hate Korn as well). But luckily there is a band like Flinch. Already active since 1997 it's like this four-piece band from Oswestry are looking for a combination between grunge-rock (Alice In Chains, Pearl Jam, Screaming Trees) but seen through British eyes (in other words it's like they give it a bit more life, so it's like if China Drum or 3 Colours Red would have recorded a grunge-album...or yes, I can already hear you mention the likes of the Llama Farmers!). "All Day Breakfast" is a nice poprockalbum that is full of great tunes ("Milky Way Waltz" does already sounds like a hit!). Let's only hope that they can maintain this own character as it'd be a sort of waste if someone was trying to convince to sound more like Nirvana... (CONTACT : FLINCH, C/O LUKE DAVIES, 21 CAIA ROAD, WREXHAM, LL13 8DS, U.K.)

CHARLOTS Citylights EP (CD-single)(Firestation Tower Records)

Their band's name may sound French but this female-fronted band are from Sweden (at least I think as their names sound so Swedish!) and when I saw their picture I was thinking of The Cardigans. And guess what...once the music started it was clear that it wasn't just imagewise. But it would be unfair to say they're copyists as this is so much more...

FLINCH

This is heavenly disco...a bit like ABBA (don't laugh, they're the masters of the scene) and of course the mighty Saint-Etienne came to mind as well. Twenty years ago this would have been the Swedish contribution for the Eurovision Contest and I'm sure they would have won...and they should have become the big popstars they deserve to be. In 2000 this great stuff is totally underground and only a handful of people will dance to this. Forget Boyzone or Westlife, put this in the charts and life will be so much better! (CONTACT : FIRESTATION TOWER RECORDS, C/O UWE WEIGMANN, ANDERSENSTRASSE 3 (HH), 10439 BERLIN, DEUTSCHLAND)(E-mail : fire_station@hotmail.com)

DREAMING FLOWERS The sun shines (CD-single)(Own release)

Since I read fanzines Dreaming Flowers, who are from Germany, are a sort of common name but this is the first time I hear their music and now I can finally discover what all the fuss is about...(at least in undergroundworld). Maybe Dreaming Flowers are the most melancholic punkband I have ever heard! Well, maybe punk is not the right word to use but they do have that sound from bands like Inter or Who Moved The Ground?, but at the same time I also do hear echoes from bands like The Chameleons or Comsat Angels. I don't care what you're going to say but as long as there are bands like Dreaming Flowers around I keep on putting my faith in guitarmusic! (CONTACT : DREAMING FLOWERS, C/O ACHIM KIETZ, FRIEDRICH-FRIESENSTRASSE 4, 95030 HOF, DEUTSCHLAND)



BLACKLIGHT BRAILLE Sailing Away (CD)(Razzle Music)

In 1969 (yeah, that long ago!) Thomas H. Owen Knight started the Bitter Blood Street Theatre, a freakish rockcombo that disbanded in 1980. Since then Owen went on composing music under the name Blacklight Braille and this is just one of the many releases of the band. Band is surely a good name to use (although "bunch" would be even much better!) as Owen may be the leading father of this prog-rock/avant-garde combo but he's surrounded by 26 musicians. What's the music then? Old hippy-shit? No, there aren't no hints of any Mamas & The Papas or Donovan-influence in here! This is music that isn't afraid of some dose of experimentation...sometimes it has that typical Zappa or Captain Beefheart, sometime it's a bit bluesy, sometimes it's like Pavement... Prog-rock, avant-garde, experimental rock...just name it and you can use it if you want to describe Blacklight Braille but I won't recommend it to try as it only will leave you with a confused mind, and who wants that? (CONTACT : RAZZLE MUSIC, 530 FLATTTERRACE, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45232, USA)

blacklight braille
Sailing Away



BLACKLIGHT BRAILLE Dietles Tavern Take Two-601Y (CD)(Own release)

Reviewing a second CD by Blacklight Braille, I have the thoughts I had when nearing "Sailing Away" : this is a band that can't be pigeonholed, this is a band that will never be captured into the scene (...and if it happens you have to put them into the uncategorisable section!). The first minutes already put you on wrong feet as the million drums will make you say : 'Hey, I'm listening to a band who are inspired by the industrial sounds of Test Dept.', but man oh man...this is only the beginning. Soon after you're hearing sounds that found its origins in the music of Tom Waits, David Bowie, Frank Zappa and probably a million others (...and let's not forget the most important man about it all : Mr. Owen Knight!). Some will hate it as it's not the kind of music that makes you a hip person (there's just no place for scenes!) but it will make you aware the reasons why you're listening to music : to have a sort of adventure you'll never forget...

VARIOUS ARTISTS Verano del 99 (CD)(Elefant Records)

The cover of this CD has the artform of a poster from a movie of the 60's, movies with Jean-Paul Belmondo, Catherine Deneuve...you know the drill! The image couldn't have fitted more with the music as this is "summerpop" which is a bit logical if you're familiar with the Spanish Elefant-label. What Elefant is trying to do during many years is to be the type of label that comes up with the best pop there is and of course as these are the standards of this label : it's all sweet and nice. I'm sure that mentioning the name of Henry Rollins will evoke the worst

elefant records

nightmares at the Elefant-office. This compilationalbum represents the Spanish talents that are part of the Elefant-catalogue these days. Some of them are pretty familiar (Le Mans, Cecilia Ann, Beef...) at least if you're familiar with the label (some of their releases are pretty huge in Japan!) and many others are new talent from which we hopefully will hear more. I'm not pretty sure if I would want to listen to this kind of pop during 24 hours but then again it's like those sunny days as there are times you're in desperate need of them!!! (CONTACT : ELEFANT RECORDS, C/O TITO PINTADO, PO BOX 331, LAS ROZAS, 28230 MADRID, SPAIN)(Internet : www.elefant.com)

HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR Anno Zero (CD)(Ideasuoni)
It actually has happened : a debutalbum from cold wave/synthpop-inspired Italian band Hiroshima Mon Amour! They may be around since 1994 but their history isn't exactly one that can be seen as "an easy career". Throughout several contributions on compilations, a CD-single and several demotapes I witnessed the development of this band and I can say that they have developed themselves from "nice coldwaveband with the typical Curesound" to "a band with an own style". At times they rock a bit, but most of the times they are playing melancholic synthwave with a punkspirit. Everything is sung in Italian (and even if my Italian knowledge is limited to "Ciao!") it hadn't a negative effect to appreciate this (...at contrary it makes it more charming!). If your recordcollection has a lot of 80's records (the band claimed to be very influenced by John Foxx, the first singer of Ultravox) you'll be happy to add this into it... (CONTACT : HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR, C/O CARLO FURII, PRAZ. CASTAGNETO 1, 64010 TERAMO, ITALIA)(Internet : e-mail : cafurii@tin.it)



MASQUE OF INNOCENCE Take 0 (Demotape)



Last summer German band Crematory changed my life as they opened my eyes (better later than never!) as when seeing them live I couldn't believe that I was so impressed by a metalact. Although I'm still struggling with terms like "black metal", "doom-metal" or "gothmetal" I just can say that this Portuguese band do also have that same magical effect Crematory has and that's combining gothkeyboards with metal. When the female singing from Elisabeth Santos got used in a track like "Until the end..." then there are even similarities with Tristania or Theatre Of Tragedy. A band we certainly will follow! (CONTACT : MASQUE OF INNOCENCE, C/O PAULO BARISTA, APARTADO 6004, 2701-801 AMADORA, PORTUGAL)(Internet. E-mail : al15862@iscite.pt)

ART OF DECAY/LD 50 Infodisk (Promo-CD; Own Release)
Belgium and electro always were best friends, not only there was the New Beat generation but since the early 80's this little country produced many great EBM-acts. Some of them became big while others are operating in the underground...and believe me, there is an underground EBM-scene over here! And this is a proof. I've never heard the names before but this is pure quality! Art Of Decay and LD 50 are both the musical projects from Stefaan Scheers and Tom Adam. The sole difference is that Art Of Decay is the EBM-band (a bit like Dive, early Nitzer Ebb and Frontline Assembly) and LD50 is more indus (at times quite experimental...not that I care, experimentation often means new sounds, so why should we complain about that?). Still I have to say that Art Of Decay are better, but that's probably because they're so good as they could fit perfect on the Zoth Ommog-label (Eurobeats with aggressive vocals). Electrofans have no excuse for not checking out this band! (CONTACT : STEFAN SCHEERS, OEVER 12, 2550 KONTICH, BELGIUM)(<http://users.pandora.be/aod/ld50/>)

GOTTES VERGESSENE SEELEN Erbarmungslos (Demotape)
For those who don't understand German, let me tell you that "Gottes vergessene Seelen" stands for "the souls that God forgot" and that's how it sounds like! The band prefer not to be pinned down on one style in particular as each song has a different musical influence and really it feels like that! Is it goth-metal, goth, doommusic...you won't care about things as such as in each song this German band puts you in an atmosphere in where solitude and sadness rules.

It's all sung in German (and even if it's a bonus if you speak some German words, it's so the sound speaks for itself!). An overwhelming sound of keyboards with a metaltouch (imagine Lacrimosa, although it's kind of cruel to compare them with any other band as they can stand on their own feet. Sole mystery that remains is why this is only a demotape. I mean, are recordcompanies deaf or what? But hey, we all know they are... (CONTACT : GOTTES VERGESSENE SEELEN, C/O STEFFEN MATYSIAK, ZUCKERSTRASSE 4, 03119 WELZOW, DEUTSCHLAND)



GRAND CENTRAL Compilationtape

In no way I want you to feel stupid or so when reading this but you can't blame that a term like "Britpop" is much more popular then a musiccategory like "emocore" is! Emocore already does exist for years, and in case you are not following : "emo" stands for emotional. This movement was created in the 90's and it looks like today it'll be the next big thing. Having that all in mind, London-based Grand Central can perhaps gain their profits from that as they're playing a sort of emocore with a poppy touch (they compare themselves with bands as Sensefield, Farside and Shades Apart...personally I heard a bit of The Promise Ring in them). Grand Central have succeeded, after having many problems which are nothing but the usual stuff, to come up with a vast line-up and so they're currently looking after any opportunity to play (gigorganisers, this is a call!). Those who are plugging the whole backcatalogue from labels like Matador or Touch and Go! will find lots of great moments in their guitarpop! (CONTACT : GRAND CENTRAL, C/O CHRISTIAN KEMBLE, 22 CUMBERLAND ROAD, SOUTH NORWOOD, LONDON, SE25 4RE, U.K.) (Internet : compoundexpress@yahoo.com)

KILL HANNAH American Jet Set (CD)(Baby Doll Records)



I know it sounds unfair towards all the other bands that are/were in this publication but Kill Hannah are the best band I came accross since doing this zine... Sorry, but that's just the way things are! "American Jet Set" is the following-up from their little masterpiece "Here are the young moderns" was (what little?, it's great!). Every song on here could be an extremely huge hit, in fact I think every Kill Hannah-song could be a smashing hit! Why are they so good then? Oh, yes...one reason isn't enough! Is it because singer Kelly has such an erotic voice? (Nooo, I don't like them so much just because there is a gorgeous woman in that band, you dirty minds!!!). Is it because they are the new Dandy Warhols? Could be... But it's mainly due to the fact that they make the kind of songs that make you say "Woocow, where is that fucking repeat button on my CD-player?". That's why!!! (CONTACT : see elsewhere in this zine!)

SUBAQWA Chalk Circle (CD)(Faith & Hope)

If you're buying all those British musicpublications then I'm sure the name of Subaqwa sounds familiar as they're part of "we think they're genius but we can't put them on the cover as they're still too obscure"-scene. So, the still item they miss is the budget Gay Dad got when they were an upcoming band. Anyway, maybe it's much better to convince the listener bit by bit. I'm kind of thankful to hear this band as for reasons I can't explain I always thought Subaqwa were a danceband (blame it on the name!) but they're not. I don't even know if I'm going to use the word "indiepop" as they may look like it but I think "intelligent pop" is more at its place here. Singer Justin's voice sounds a little like Neil Finn's one but they avoid to sound as boring as Crowded House by coming up with gorgeous guitarlines or some keyboardparts that made "OK Computer" such a great album (mind you, this is not the 654th



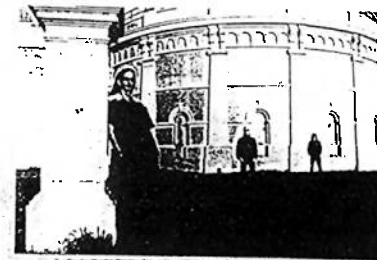
band who steal Radiohead's ideas). Maybe their songs are a bit too touchy to let them compete with the Oasis-overhype that once again is hitting us, but I'm sure that one day we will read the lines that say "Subagwa are great!", and not in footnotes but spread over a cover!!! (CONTACT : FAITH & HOPE RECORDS, PO BOX 116, MANCHESTER, M60 1RX, U.K.)(Internet : www.faith-and-hope.co.uk)

MINT ROYALE FEATURING LAUREN LAVERNE Don't Falter (CD-single)(Faith & Hope)
Once I thought that Kenickie were the perfect combination between pop and alternative, they could write those great popsongs you'll never felt embarrassed about to like them (not that I'm ashamed about my love for pop, oh no!!!). But dreams are destined to get destroyed once, so Kenickie vanished and the sole question that was on my lips must have been : "Will I ever hear that gorgeous voice from Lauren again?". A big year later I do as Lauren teams up with the new dancesensation Mint Royale (this single is taken from their CD "On the ropes"). The track that has Lauren as a guest-singer sounds very Kenickie-ish (imagine one of their "Stay in the sun"-remixes and you're there) but that must be because of the voice! The Mint Royale-track that has to do without her sounds a bit like Betley Rhythm Ace, dancemusic with the big beat and the needed dose of humour. Lauren's back and all the rest is a bonus!!!

ALPINESTARS Kizbühel Weekend EP (12'inch)(Faith & Hope)
The reason why so many dancereleases are shit is quite simple : too many boom-boom's and too little melodies. But hey, I'm not someone who is too selfobsessed for doing some freaky dancing...give me a topdancerecord and I'll prove it to you! So yup, you already hear me coming... Alpinestars are a band who makes me wanna dance! Why??? Because they're a band who comes up with beep-beepsounds that could be found on "The Man Machine" by Kraftwerk, because they let me relive the discodays in where people like Giorgio Moroder was a king, because this is ultra melancholic stuff, because they write tunes, because they are better than Electric Sound Of Joy, because it's not post-rock dance for the elitists among us, because the Alpinestars gave me twenty gorgeous minutes of music...that's why! I have no idea what a Kizbühel Weekend might be, but if it sounds like this then all the weekends might be the same! Extremely good stuff!!!

VARIOUS ARTISTS Down Underground Volume 2 (CD)(T.O.A.N. Productions)
Nobody knows why but the main attention goes to bands who are coming from Europe and America...while other continents are largely ignored. Stupid as stupid can be as good music is made everywhere, and on this compilation-CD you can hear 16 bands that are coming from Australia. Some bands I'm already familiar with (Eye, Sterile, Zeitgeist and Troll) and this is an absolute must if you're into EBM (Closed World Assumption and Nale are into that Nine Inch Nails category), industrial rock (Sterile), Aussie rock as we know it... you know stuff like Nick Cave or Crime & The City Solution (Gretel's Pointless Existence), metal (Aerbourne and the extremely brilliant Draxcen) or the more goth-influenced rock from Troll. A very varied album that everyone should hear as Australia has more than just kangaroos!!!

STERILE Warm Dark Noise (CD)(Summer Haze Rcs.)
On the above reviewed CD you can also find Sterile. This is their first CD and when saying they have supported the likes of Atari Teenage Riot, Fear Factory and Pitchshifter then you certainly won't expect supersweet guitarpop. Hell no, this is music at its most aggressive. It's like the band say "an electro-hardcore sound that allowed the bandmembers to vent their frustration and anger in the loudest possible voice". The great thing is that the listener also gets this feeling when listening to this...it's the sort of music that makes you want to bang your head against a wall. Music for sick souls some will say, and it is...but a combination of Ministry and Godflesh always works. Brutal sounds from people who probably have a little heart... (CONTACT : STERILE, PO BOX 452, BONDI JUNCTION, NSW 2022, AUSTRALIA) (Internet : www.accsoft.com.au/~sterile)



STERILE Cold Dark Noise (CD)(Sterile State)
After "Warm Dark Noise" comes "Cold Dark Noise", and it's only a matter of coming up with original titles? Not really, as maybe it wasn't supposed to be like this but on their latest CD Sterile sounds colder. The goth-electro has been replaced by a more industrial approach that is heard on releases by Godflesh, Neurosis, Pitchshifter or early Therapy? It's all aggressive (that seems to be the keyword of Sterile's music, not?) and even if my speakers beg me to turn down the noise, it's kind of irresistible... (CONTACT : see above)

DANIELE BRUSASCHETTO Mama fottimi (CD)(Zzz...Records)
When you're in Italy you better not say "Mama fottimi" as it means "mama, fuck me" and defending yourself by saying you're not a pervert but only wanted to mention the title of Daniele Brusaschetto's new album won't help you that much either... Daniele Brusaschetto isn't the new Zucchero, it's someone who's more operating in the indus-scene (although he's maybe the Zucchero of the Italian indus-scene as his whole catalogue is distributed all over the world). The lyrics are in Italian (translated in English) but I can't think of any other Italian artist who's doing the same things musicwise... Some songs reminded me of the fantastic solo-albums Colin Newman (the singer of Wire) made in the early 80's, but then there are other tracks that are sounding more like Einstürzende Neubauten or modern classic composers like Steve Reich. Some songs might be a bit too experimental for my personal taste but an interesting album from an artist who isn't afraid to do some unusual stuff either... (CONTACT : DANIELE BRUSASCHETTO, V. SCOTELLARO 71, 10155 TORINO, ITALIA)(Internet : e-mail : brusaschetto@hotmail.com)



CLAIRE LARONDE Lumière de l'instant (CD)(EMEI)



Claire Laronde is an artist from Paris who's making electro-acoustic music and so it's kind of obvious that some of her work has ended up on one of those Electroshockcompilations, a label that easily can be seen as the leader of the whole electro-acousticmovement. Sure, her music is reminiscent to the one of Russian composer Edward Artemiev, or his son Artemiy...and yet, even if it's difficult to explain it with words, it's kind of different as well. In my own words I would like to describe Claire's music as industrial music that is created for meditation, a sort of distorted form of Tangerine Dream if you want. Cos experimentation is what you get on here, but the collage of sounds never works on your nerves...therefore it's too beautiful and too varied. It's like Claire creates music with the sounds of crystals and bottles...a walk in the garden of Eden and Claire's music is the guide to show you all the details... (CONTACT : CLAIRE LARONDE, 185 RUE DU CHEVALERET, 75013 PARIS, FRANCE)(E-mail : partage.tanzanie@imaginet.fr)

VARIOUS ARTISTS Electroshock presents... (CD)(Electroshock)
As said above, Claire Laronde is an artist that has appeared on Electroshock, and this is an album on where you can find one of her works. What else could be said about this label that hasn't been said before in this zine? I don't know, and I won't say that every musiclover will love their releases but if music means more to you than a collection of perfect popsongs then you have to check out an Electroshock once in your life! Just like it's the case with so many other Electroshock-releases, you hear lots of different things here. Five Russian composers are presented on here and it goes from classic music (but in a minimalistic way), extreme indus, 70's synthpop (the track from Andrew Rodionov is like an outtake from a KraftwerkSong!... even the 'tsjak pong'-lyrics are sampled!), electronic ambient in pure John Carpenter-style to influences from the Middle East. As always interesting...

SEROTONIN Demo-CD

One of the biggest problems the current musicscene has is that the pressure on new bands is a bit too much. Labels are expecting that their signings are delivering us their ultimate masterpiece from the very early start. Wouldn't it be better to let bands grow? Of course it is, and I'm sure if money was out of the question everybody would agree with this. Take only British band Serotonin. They've never been bad, but the difference between their latest

offering and the demo I received therefore is enormous. The opening three tracks which are brand new prove that there is talk of talent! It's a very retro thing, and you will more than once say it took its roots from John Lennon-soloburns ("Action for the people") or The Jam ("Eden"), but they're good songs that can stand the test of time. What differs them from established so-called dadrockbands is the spontaneity that is in there music, they're not showing you how good they are by playing boring guitar solos but they just bring you a well crafted song. People who are totally bored by Beatles-inspired bands don't need to check this out, but for those who believe that there is still place for 60's inspired pop (and there is, as long as it's good) can rest their heads on the shoulders of Serotonin... (CONTACT : SEROTONIN, 105 LILLANDS LANE, RASTRICK, BRIGHOUSE, WEST YORKSHIRE, HD6 3BR, U.K.)(www.serotonin.free-online.co.uk)

RICH LERNER Sampler-CD (CD)(Rockduster Records)
Last issue I told you about Rich Lerner who sounded a lot like rock-folk legend Steve Forbert. On this CD you get a sort of "best of..." compiled from the 3 albums ("Darkness and light", "Village of chance in motion" and "Trails and bridges"). The folk-element is still in here (Rich's voice sounds a lot like Bob Dylan as well), but some tracks are power-rock (what else can I call it?) in where the Tom Petty-approach is never far away. For some of you this might be a bit too gentle (or FM-Rockish) and others will see Rich as a very talented songwriter which he really is... The folk implosion starts here! (CONTACT : RICH LERNER, ROCKDUSTER RECORDS, PO BOX 77152, GEENSBORO, 27417 USA) (Internet : www.rockduster.com)

DAS HOLZ Drei (CD)(Chrom Records)
One of the most beautiful instruments there are must be the violin. I won't say they're rare in today's music, but they're just too much used as a background-element. With German band Das Holz, it's different. Their line-up exists from two violins and a drum! Of course through bands like The Balanescu Quartett or The Dirty Three, we already knew that this could work fine, but Das Holz are more dark-wave oriented (they even do cover "Lust" from The Sisters Of Mercy, and it's probably the most original one I ever heard!) and more than once there are hints to Australian bands like The Wreckery, Crime & The City Solution or Nick Cave. On this album they got the help from several guest singers, and I guess Sven Regener from Element Of Crime is the most popular one. Das Holz see themselves as avantgarde-pop, and whether that's true I think a term like "pop noir" is more at its place. Almost perfect! (CONTACT : DAS HOLZ, C/O CHRISTIAN KOMOROWSKI, CUVRYSTRASSE 38, 10997 BERLIN, DEUTSCHLAND)

CYCLIADÉ Cycliade (Taperelease)
The cover from this taperelease doesn't make us any wiser as it really could be everything : death metal, goth, industrial...just name it, as long as the style has some dark elements in it. But once it's on the tapedeck, you know that Cycliade are making a sort of 'indus'. I especially use the word "sort of" as not only it's as macabre as something by Deutsch Nepal or Negativland, it could also have been the sort of 'dark noise' which is made in Bristol these days (and then we mean stuff like Crescent or Third Eye Foundation). Despite the rather cheap production, Cycliade still manage to create a somber atmosphere with their music. The music isn't that easy to get into, and it surely will leave some listeners with a "So what?"-face but still recommended for people who are into dark experimental indus-stuff. (CONTACT : CYCLIADÉ, C/O ALEXANDRE GARCIA, 5 RUE LACHELIER, 75013 PARIS, FRANCE)(No internet-info)

GROVER Husk (CD)(Own Release)
This album is rather old (well, it was released in 1997) but the band is still sounding fresh. Even when they're going since 1993 and having supported bands like My Bloody Valentine and Radiohead, they're still underground (...and sadly enough not a household name at all). This debut-CD which is produced by Steve Hough of Godflesh is a typical "indie"-product of the 90's in the sense that it is good, but just a bit too difficult for the big



masses, not that this is necessary but it just leaves you wonder why only a handful of people are appreciating this emo-rock that easily could have landed on a label like Ché. But that's the way the world is, and Grover haven't given up as recently they have released a single "...Like a bunny" on the Birmingham based Bearos Records. With the new single this trio are more heading into the post-rock direction, and as the two songs are instrumental guitar tracks you're thinking a bit of Mogwai... (it sounds a bit like that...). How good the album "Husk" may be, I think their new sound will make it a bit easier to find an audience as it just feels like a melancholic bombexplosion (...yeah, don't ask me what that really is, therefore you have to hear their music!). Those who have internet must visit their website as there are plenty of songs you can download. (CONTACT : GROVER, 65 INSTITUTE ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 7EY, U.K.) OR (BEAROS RECORDS, PO BOX 7179, BIRMINGHAM, B29 6RA, U.K.) (Internet : www2.ebham.ac.uk/grover)(The label's site : Alan bearos.freeseerve.co.uk)

RICKY SPONTANE Hit the town (CD)(Full Strength)

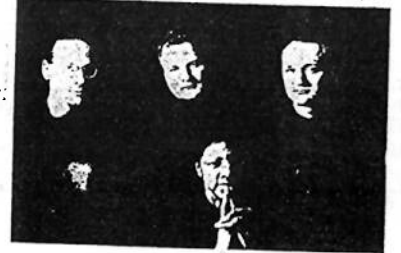
The next time you're meeting someone who tells you there is no original music made these days, feel free to headbutt him or if you believe there's still some faith left, hand them the second album by psychobilly-indierockers Ricky Spontane. Their music was already praised by The Boo Radleys (who made them single of the week in Melody Maker!). On 'Hit the town' Ricky Spontane continue at what they're doing best and that's mixing old fashioned rock 'n roll (their most recent single is a sort hymn to Fats Domino!) with the bizarreness from The Fall or The Clint Boon Experience. At times it really sounds a bit smoothy, a track like "More country blues" could easily be one of those 50's hits from Del Shannon or Frankie Avalon! So at times it comes over as the sort of record your parents will like! But hey, who cares? This album is 100% rock 'n roll but with an attitude to die for! I never saw them on stage (how miserable I am!) but throughout reading lots of zines I know they're absolutely crazy! Hit the town, Ricky Spontane...and please hit mine too!!! (CONTACT : FULL STRENGTH, THE WENDY HOUSE, FORTRESS, 54-56 COMPTON STREET, LONDON, EC1V 0ET, U.K.)(www.fullstrength.co.uk)

SELAH Demotape

One thing you can't accuse them for is a lack of self-confidence! The name alone speaks for itself... Not that I knew it, but Selah is a Hebrew word which means "a new musical direction" or "unknown meaning". They opted for this name as there were too many townies around who were into pop and dance music, Selah are there to change that! At least that's what they say... Their music surely won't change the world, but it's certainly not bad at all. They are making a sort of grunge inspired indierock that will keep fans from The Llama Farmers or Idlewild happy, and there is even the bass-driven energy that is typical for Placebo's music. Keep an eye on them if you're into that sort of music as the talent is here and these boys will do anything to let their music heard. (CONTACT : SELAH, C/O DARREN HARDING, 19 PARK AVENUE, SPALDING, Lincs, PE11 1QU, U.K.)(www.selahworld.cwc.net)

SWEET VENUS Promo-CD

Five years ago they started as Sandalwood and according to singer they were a sort of Cocteau Twins, but with their new band they're doing the opposite... And even when it's not my intention to get into a discussion with the creators itself, I kind of disagree as this powerpop has a sort of gothy-touch! First there is the strange voice of Angela Webster which can only be described as "weird"...if anyone remembers Lene Lovich then you already have a sort of hint. But that's not all...the music itself may be 'uptempo guitar-rock' but more than once there is a touch of The Cure (or like a reviewer said : Garbage) in here. The band's name may perhaps sound a bit ordinary but their music certainly isn't...at contrary! (CONTACT : SWEET VENUS, C/O ANGELA WEBSTER, 3 TENBURY ROAD (FLAT 5), KINGSHEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 6AD, U.K.) (www.sundial.dircon.co.uk)



GAG When people start slapping meat on marble (CD)(Flitwick Records)
 Free downloading on the internet, putting albums on tapes you'll never find back, chasing lots of record fairs in search of records you can't find anywhere and coming home with a Ringo Starr-album... Who cares about that if there is a recordlabel that gives their releases away for free? Yeah, it's true...not a joke at all! Just send a note telling them you want the new Gag-album and soon you'll find it on your doormat. Don't be so sarcastic to say that otherwise no one would buy their records as that might be a part of the truth, but the other truth is that it's not their fault most people care about the so-called 'Golden Ballads' by Dire Straits. So how's the music then? Hmm, if you're into the kind of stuff that is released on Guided Missiles then you know what to expect. A sort of early Fall, a sort of Yummy Fur, a sort of Swell Maps, a sort of Subway Sect... A sort of post-punkthing in where "cacaphony" rules. No problem if you don't like this type of thing, just don't say to me that "Summer of 69" by fucking Bryan Adams is the best piece of rock you'll ever heard or I'll send your address to Flitwick Records so you will learn that "cacaphony post-punk" is so much better... (CONTACT : FLITWICK RECORDS, PO BOX 26, FLITWICK, BEDS, MK45 1ZU, U.K.)(No internet, old fashioned mail rules!!!)

NO WINGS FINS OR FUSELAGE Electrics (miniCD)(Seriously Groovy)
 Why does James Barnard make it so difficult for himself? Not only is he the creator of a band whose name it's totally impossible to remember, but he also said once the immortal words "I'm an UFO" in an interview and so it happens that those who know the band are connecting it with "weirdo". I'm kind of sure he's a real weirdo, but then again 99% of all geniuses are weirdoes, so why bother? "Electrics" is the follow-up from No Wings Fins or Fuselage's debutalbum and basically you can say two things about it. All reviews I read so far (and that's a whole heap!) are referring to The Pixies or solo-albums by Frank Black, and this is more than just "lazy journalism" as it really sounds like if The Pixies never broke up. But that's not a real problem as The Pixies were one of the best bands ever and nobody complains if a new band sounds like Nirvana. And what's my second thing to say? Hhhmmmm, that they're cruelly ignored and for that I have no explanation neither can I defend it...just a shame. (CONTACT : SERIOUSLY GROOVY MUSIC LTD., 3RD FLOOR, 28 D'ARLAY STREET, SOHO, LONDON, W1V 3PH, U.K.) (<http://users.aol.com/seriousgrv>)

ELECTRIC BIRD NOISE Unleashing the inner robot (CD)(Artfag)
 "Mastering the variations on a theme concept, Electric Bird Noise organizes highly scattered brain patterns into effortless flowing symphonies that put some of the most recent work of David Bowie and Brian Eno to shame" wrote Free Times, which is a mag from Columbia. Well, things like that make me laugh cos if you wanna beat Mr. David Bowie then you have to be very good. And the problem is, Electric Bird Of Noise are very good. Listening to this album I can only say that this album from this American trio sounds like a dream. All the tracks are instrumental ones at where the guitar rules! More then once I had the feeling I was listening to an instrumental Cocteau Twins-album (although they probably see Robert Fripp more as their master). The main reason why this album was sounding like a dream is that some tracks do have the same sound from the best album of all time, and how many times do I have to tell that David Bowie's "Low" is the best??? When reading that a band is making "soundscapes" does regular mean "unlistenable stuff that is only fun for the creator itself" but in their case I can only say that this is what real "soundscapes" are. It doesn't put Bowie's work to shame, but Jesus Christ what a masterpiece this is! Unmissable stuff!!! (CONTACT : ELECTRIC BIRD OF NOISE, 5708 LONG LEAF DR., MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29577 USA) (<http://members.aol.com/ebnoise/index.html>)

TWIN MACHINE Neo (Demotape)
 The second demotape from German duo Twin Machine is a fact! They already have been featured with an interview, so it's no surprise at all to read I like them a lot! They do at what German bands are doing best : playing synthpop with a touch of EBM. A sort of Nitzer Ebb with the poppy elements from Depeche Mode, and it might be all very 80's-like it still sounds fresh in my ears. On this tape you get 10 songs and I have no idea why it's not released on a CD by a proper label as this band



surely can count on a positive response from gothclubbers ("319" could be a clubhit if played as much as something by Covenant or De/Vision). Dance till you drop, like they used to say... (CONTACT : TWIN MACHINE, C/O MARCO DAMES, HABERNANNZELLE 20, 13627 BERLIN, DEUTSCHLAND)(<http://members.xoom.com/twinmachine>)

THE BEAT OF BLACK WINGS Ad Noctem (CD)(Own Release)
 Maybe it has a lot to do with personal taste, I don't know...but gothkeyboards and ethereal female vocals do it for me, so when hearing a band like The Beat Of Black Wings doing this in a faultless way then I can use only one word and that is "perfect". The Beat Of Black Wings are from Germany (95% from all gothbands are coming from there!) and they exist since 1996, and so far they all had to do it by themselves and so "Ad Noctem" is their second selfreleased album. In the past they already have been compared to the likes of Clan Of Xymox (probably because of the many keyboards which are dominating this splendid album), Diary Of Dreams and Silke Bisschoff. All fair, but "Ad Noctem" is more then atmospheric goth as on every track they're trying out a different genre (although the term 'goth' always will turn back when trying to describe it). There are instrumental soundscapes in pure In The Nursery-style, there is a touch of Death In June, there is the dancefloorkiller-remix from one of their singles "The Pact" and some songs are even metal-oriented (a bit like Therion). "Ad Noctem" is as said before a very diverse album and I just hope this band will keep on releasing many more as it's that type of music which makes my love for music a justified one... (CONTACT : THE BEAT OF BLACK WINGS, C/O ERIC SCHURMANN, VARNHAGENSTRASSE 3, 58636 ISELOHN, DEUTSCHLAND) (E-mail : Blackwings@t-online.de)

THE FLYING MEDALLIONS Lemon (CD-single)(Yassaba Records)
 What's next? A punkrecord! All fine by me as long as I don't have to review something by Kenny Rogers! Joking apart, The Flying Medallions are a bit of a legendary group in the punkscene but due to a real tragedy they were forced to stop their shouty-punksongs for a while. But they're back. Former single "Addict" was already a fine meal of old fashioned 77 punk, and "Lemon" is just a confirmation of that. Some will say they're born too late, and it might be true that this isn't revolutionary at all, it's also a truth that punk is a genre as well and not only for people who live in the past. Sounds a bit hilarious and hey...it has more balls then all those "straight edge"punkers. Take a beer and party like it's 1978... (CONTACT : YASSABA RECORDS, PO BOX 6364, LONDON, N22 4LA, U.K.)(www.flyingmeds.freemove.co.uk)

THE CONSPIRACY Freak ya out! (CD)(S.A.K.)
 Isn't it great that the musicindustry is killed by its own industry? Since you can make your own CD's (these days they're cheaper as tapes!) lots of zinewriters have seen the golden light. Years and years they complained that labels refuse to listen to the bands that care, so they set up their own label. Yeah, I know...it's the same concept as someone who releases 7" inches in DIY-form but moneywise it's different. When someone presses 500 copies from a single that stays unsold then it might be bad luck, but it's a financial disaster as well and with CD R's there ain't risks as such... Sole bad thing might be that it can mean the end of all those tapelabels that are around (believe it or not, last Saturday I couldn't find tapes in a super-market as they were all replaced by CD R's!!!). Anyway, Colin who runs one of the best zines there are, "Cream Of The Crop", has started his own label and one of his first products is a sort of "early recordings" from The Conspiracy. This duo really has a future, and what's more the press really does believe in them...or at least a part does. Last month I read with my own eyes a raving review from this band in German "Zillo"-mag (and in all fairness they're the German NME, only much better as they're not that narrow-minded). Readers from The Original Sin will probably have read of them before as I really dig their psychedelic pop. They're big admirers from XTC and you can hear that, but I see them more as the David Bowie from the underground as throughout the different styles they're moving themselves as musical chameleons. Forget your Bluetones, forget Ooberman...remember Primal Scream and The Conspiracy!!! (CONTACT : COLIN SCOTT, 13 CORONATION STREET, PONTY-MISTER, RISCA, GWENT, NP11 6BD, SOUTH WALES, U.K.)(CONTACT-THE BAND : THE CONSPIRACY, 47 YEALM PARK, YEALMPTON, DEVON, PL8 2NR, U.K.) (E-mail : conspiracyare@hotmail.com)(Also on the web on www.peoplesound.com)

THE JACKALS Killer Glitz (Taperelease)



Swedish bands know what rock 'n roll is all about, so getting a tape from a Swedish band were reasons enough to get excited. I don't know why exactly but I was expecting some glamrock, and despite hearing some Johnny Thunders-guitariffs in here, I would classify this more as Oil-punk. But Oil-punk is fine, you can sing the tunes and you can shake your ass to it...and that's what this band are all about: 15 minutes of pure poprockexcitement. So if you dig a band like Cock Sparrer, give them a chance as well. You can already start with removing the tables!!! (CONTACT: THE JACKALS, C/O K.J. SVENSSON, VIDHEMSGATAN 44, 53010 VEDUM, SWEDEN)(<http://come.to:thejackals>)

THE VOW Metropolitan (Demotape)

While reading the review from The Conspiracy in where I said they are one of the most featured bands in fanzines, you surely must have thought "...What about The Vow?". Yeah, it's true that maybe they're the most popular unsigned band of today! And what's more, 95% of the zinereviews do only say one thing: "Why are they still unsigned?". Don't understand it myself either but then again I don't understand it why so many bands keep unsigned. Are The Vow that special then? The point is that many bands are good but they often disappear after a couple of demos, but in their case you know they're fighting to be heard and every demo is getting better and better. And that's the case with this as well. Sole "mistake" is that "Ain't no life" should have been the opening track as this is the strongest Vow-track I have ever heard, the guitarlines on here would make Noel Gallagher blush as this is a sort of indie-rock that balances perfectly between anger and pop. Fact for Vow-fans: this is the first recording with new guitarist Mike Mireller. (CONTACT: THE VOW, 96 ALMA ROAD, PETERBOROUGH, PE1 3AW, U.K.)(Internet: vow.coughlin51.freemove.co.uk)



SLEEPY PEOPLE Missing Man (Rough Mixes-Demotape)

His name is Mick Magic, but whatever his name might be, a magician he isn't... Just don't believe in all those David Copperfield's (all they really want to do is dating supermodels), but I do believe in persons who believe in the real power of the underground and that's what Mick Magic is all about! He currently has set up the united world underground network. The name explains itself, doing lots of things to support undergroundbands from all over the world. Apart from running a distro-system (if you're in a band, ask for information!) he also runs the quite legendary Music & Elsewhere-tapelabel. CD's may rule the world but tapelabels are here to stay! Mick isn't exactly the prototype of a boss, he's a very nice man and so he send me the rough mixes from two Sleepy People-songs. When I hear the word "Sleepy People" I say "Woowoooo!". Why? Hhmmmm, they may have split up but one of the best bands from the previous century (nice we can use that now!) were Ultrasound and you might know it or not but some people from Ultrasound (including Tiny!) were in Sleepy People! This is prog-rock, but not the kind of prog-rock that makes you sick...more Cardiacs-like! But mind you, bearded types will be happy to hear there are some Jethro Tull-influences in here as well. This is quite good, you know...I even begin to adore it! (CONTACT: MUSIC & ELSEWHERE, 6 FARM COURT, FARM ROAD, FRIMLEY, SURREY, GU16 5TJ, U.K.)

VARIOUS ARTISTS Candlelight Collection III (CD)(Candlelight)

I sincerely do think it's kind of funny that I recently got myself into metal as I used to swear that "metal" must be one of the genres I never could see myself into...and look what happened: slowly it's getting a grip on me. "Never say never" comes through my mind... Anyway, I'm a beginner so don't shoot me down if I see some things completely wrong... And no, I still don't know the difference between black metal or death metal but I know the difference between good and bad music, so you can count on me...even if I do say it myself. On this CD you get a presentation from what can currently be found on the Candlelight-label which is one of the bigger metallabels. There was only one band I didn't like at all and that was Myrkskog (a very brutal kind of death metal). The two bands I was most familiar were gothbands (how typical, not?) namely Daeonia (very Sisters Of Mercy-like, and I'm not saying this because they have covered "Alice") and Christian Death who proof there is still life after the death of Rozz Williams. The biggest surprise came from Source Of Tide and you better don't ask me to describe it (although the word

"schizophrenic beauty" is at its place) but best thing to do is to check them when you're at the recordstore. Also you can find Emperor (one of the biggest brutal metallacts there are) and Agent Steel who play old school trash metal. Indecent: a pretty fine damn record to check out what's going on at the metalscene, especially if you're such a blind rabbit as I was (...but now I am not!!!)(CONTACT: CANDLELIGHT RECORDS, C/O STUART NESS, 2 ELGIN AVENUE, LONDON, W9 3AP, U.K.)(<http://www.candlelightrecords.co.uk>)

THE KITCHEN CYNICS Cut out, fold back and switch on! (CD)(Owm Rel.)

Underground-maestro Mick Magic recently defended the underground by saying that if 99% of all musiclovers are listening to mainstream shit, there's still that other 1% left which equals the whole population of a country like the U.K. Having said that he really took the words right out of my mouth! Seeing the discography of The Kitchen Cynics (which is in fact one person, Alan Davidson) makes you dizzy! Not that I counted them but it must be around 25 or 30 releases! They may be active since 1988 but that is still productivity at its highest! This CD is a recording he has made with underground-friends Vinyl Bill and Gordon Gray. Some reviews I've read are referring to bands like The Chills or Link Floyd-genius Syd Barrett, and there's really a dose of 70's inspired psychedelic rock in here but it's done with a sort of my Bloody Valentine lo-fi attitude that makes the whole CD a very enjoyable experience. Alan may not have the right face to make it as pin-up for several teenie-posters but he has the right voice and fingers to do something those alternative teenybopper-guitarbands can't! (CONTACT: THE KITCHEN CYNICS, C/O ALAN DAVIDSON, 346 HOLBURN STREET, ABERDEEN, AB10 7GX, SCOTLAND, U.K.)(No internet-info)



THE MAYFLIES USA Summertime (CD)(Yep Roc Records)



Fans of 60's inspired American powerpop better read this with attention as they're going to love this record a lot. Coming from Chapel Hill they already could convince Chris Stamey (the man behind the DB's who were a well respected American band in the 80's) to produce their debutalbum and they also have enriched their sounds with the backing vocals of Georgia Hubley who some of you will recognize from Yo La Tengo! What The Mayflies USA are doing here is making the perfect follow-up to "Bandwagonesque" that Teenage Fan Club never could deliver! This is more than having the right haircut or denim jacket and even when you heard it before in other's people records (especially British ones!) you can't say it's not good. Names like Guided By Voices or Alex Chilton can be the perfect roadsigns to find that little place called The Mayflies USA. (CONTACT: YEP ROC RECORDS, C/O MELISSA ADAMS, PO BOX 4821, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-4821, USA)(E-mail: melissa@redeyeusa.com)

MOHBURNER Winter's fire (Demotape)

Recently I was writing with Kim Harten (the lovely girl from Bliss Tapes!) if Mothburner are goth or not. I think if you see goth in a very wide sense that they are, although darkwave is more at its place. Anyway, this duo from Cornwall have already been featured in most of the zines I'm reading and recently they got the very charming news that they will be included on one of those gothcompilations Nightbreed are constantly putting on the market. Shirin and Nothing (that's their names!) are making that type of ethereal gothpop (Black Tape For A Blue Girl, Love Is Colder Than Death...) with voices that are like a cross between Liz Frazier and Julianne Reagan from All About Eve. The band were apologizing themselves for the 'inferior' quality (as it's home-made) but not only is there any need for this, but if cheap productions sound brilliant then you know you're dealing with quality. I really do think that the U.K. needs more bands like them as it will open the eyes of many Brits who are ignoring this genre! Oh, and by the way...some reviews I read earlier were saying they sound like The Cranes. I can say they don't...not that I have anything against Alison Shaw but it just wouldn't be fair... Discover this! (CONTACT: MOHBURNER, 1 BULLIER QUAY, EAST LOOE, CORNWALL, PL13 1AQ, U.K.)(<http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/happyhouse/mothburner>)



SOUTHPAW Goddess (CD-single)(Meantime Records)
If you write about hundreds of little bands you're always haunted by that horrible question if the bands are still on the run or not. So if new material reaches my address it always makes me happy...and our friends from Southpaw have a lot to tell. Not only are they in the middle of the recording of their second album but they also have recorded their new single and the result is called "Goddess". The band still play at what they're doing best and that's playing indie rock songs with a punkish-attitude, a little bit like early Ash. Some punks will think it's a bit too poppy, but hey...why should we care about that?
(CONTACT : SOUTHPAW, C/O 3 MARDLING RUN, ACLE, NORWICH, NORFOLK, NR13 3JR, U.K.)(www.southpawhomepage.freemove.co.uk)



MOONBABIES Air Moon Stereo EP (7"inch)(Moonkrack Records)
After hearing the music by the Moonbabies I came up with a brilliant (well, sort of...) idea. Remember those T-shirts that had a catchphrase printed that went like "Punk's not dead!"? Well, why not make those T-shirts with a message saying "Indie's not dead!"? Really, indiepop as we used to know it still lives on, at least if you're listening to the right bands! And Moonbabies are a right band! What basically started as a busking session in the streets of Copenhagen (they later moved to Sweden!) has become an excellent indiesensation that floats between shoegazing (My Bloody Valentine, Chapterhouse), noise rock (Husker Dü) and folk-pop (remember the Heathrobs!). On this vinyl single you can hear four songs that will make you dance (well, of course you have to be the type of person who dance to The Wedding Present). But for those who have kicked out their turntable in the bin (...how dare you!) there's good news as at the time you're reading this, they will have a CD-album out on the American Duckweed Records-label. With a name as such it was kind of logic that the music would be great, not? (CONTACT : MOONBABIES, KAMRERGATAN 7A, 21156 MALMO, SWEDEN)(http://moonbabies.tripod.com)

PARINA Two people (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
It's quite unbelievable if you consider how many bands there are, more than once you're tended to say "Will it ever stop?", but then again that's the beauty of the ride. Pickled Egg is the type of label that isn't in search for the new Manics or the new Nirvana, all they want is to release singles (...and sometimes albums) from bands they believe in. They send me a whole bunch of singles, so let's have a look how it sounds like! The first single is by a band called Parina, and even if they are formed since 1995 I've never heard from them before (...although some of you might know them from their appearance on the Dreamy Records compilation). Dreamy is the kind of word that can be used, there might be echoes from Herb Alpert, Jay Jay Johnson or even Astrud Gilberto (ask your granddad!!!) but it's also a sort of record that sounds timeless, it could have been released in the 50's or the 60's (...do they use that now?) but the effect is still there...yeah, dreamy! (CONTACT : PICKLED EGG RECORDS, 19 COLLEGE AVENUE, LEICESTER, LE2 0JF, U.K.)(http://www.pickled-egg.co.uk/pickled-egg/)

LE BLEU Toujours là (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
Not all French music comes from France! We're living in a multicultural world (fuck off, all you nationalists!) and why would it be that French bands sing in French or that British bands should be limited to the use of the English language? Le Bleu are from Edinburgh and they make French lo-fi pop songs... Of course it's charming and of course they probably are seeking for dusty Michel Polnareff (a French superstar!) records at their local flea market but this is more than being hip. Ecouter Le Bleu est très agréable, embrasse-ça!!!

BABLICON Chunks of syrup amidst plain yoghurt (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
Please do me a favour and read again that title! OK since the arrival of Stereolab titles like these aren't that worldshocking but it's surely not a daily thing as well... And hearing the music I must admit that this is a sort of music that only will be liked by weirdoes (the big question is of course, what exactly is a weirdo?...who knows I'm one myself!). Anyway, Bablicon is a musical bunch consisting of Blue Hawaii, Marta Tennae and The Diminisher. They're coming from Chicago and they're making "space-jazz"! After having released a full album, "In A Different City", this is their debut on Pickled

Egg, and really I can't say if this Zappa-esque cocktail jazz-thing is shit or genius. In any case if mixing cheesy music (Combustible Edison) with avant-garde (The Residents) says something to you, you know where to find it!!!

SAVOY GRAND The moving air/Millions of people (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
You surely know that type of lists that are made by the NME, "tips for...". Well, Savoy Grand were tips for 1999 and one of their first offerings can be found on Pickled Egg. Their backgrounds are "jazz" and "classical", but it's not "elitist". Their music can at best be described as a sort of Low with Ennio Morricone-influences... Everything is quiet on here, a cello, a violin, lazy drums and a voice that sounds like the singer's been tortured by life itself... A very beautiful release...

SODASTREAM Turnstyle (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
Has the Belle & Sebastian-effect reached Australia yet? Listening to this record it seems so, although if you're familiar with bands like The Triffids or The Go-Betweens you know that romantic pop and Australia had a strong link! Sodastream came to the attention of Pickled Egg when John Peel included one of their tracks into his legendary Festive 50! And yeah, this is a perfect tool to measure the quality of a certain band, not? Gentle fragile pop that goes like a movie through your head... Forget what I said about Belle & Sebastian, it's just a hint....

BY COASTAL CAFE Me (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
When you know that their former release was a split-single with Spare Snare on Lissy's then you'll certainly realize that "lo-fi" is the keyword. Swedish lo-fi pop duo By Coastal Cafe take their approach of what lo-fi should be very far. Not only does this sound like it's recorded in a cellar but their songs have a length from approximately one minute (...don't worry, there are six songs included on here). This is pop (yeah, it is pop!) without compromises and it could have been released on K Records, but this is on Pickled Egg and it really reinforces the diversity of this label...

GULLIVER Humalayo (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
"Gulliver's travels" by author Jonathan Swift is a sort of special book for me as it was the first English book I read, it was a kind of forced thing but I became fascinated by that personage... Fifteen years later I'm holding the debut single from a French band in my hands who are named after the Swift character as Hugues Caulet (the brain behind Gulliver) sees himself lost in the world just like Gulliver.... There's no need to be that desperate as it really isn't such an eventual thing that French bands end up on British labels (...and it's even sung in French!). His music is already been described as the French version from Momus...and who am I to disagree? A bit the type of music you can find on Spanish label Elefant and as cute as Cinerama, and as refreshing as Taxi Girl (a cultband from France...). I like this...

GULLIVER Boujoubu (7"inch)(Pickled Egg Records)
If you have this single as well, you're the owner of 8 Gulliver-songs! Of course everything that's been said about "Humalayo" can be said about this second release as well! And hey don't say you don't want to hear this because you don't know any French as Jim's review in "Robots & Electronic Brains" says it all : "Wholly absorbing, it'll move you to tears without understanding a word"... Try, try, try...

VARIOUS ARTISTS Moon Records presents Skarmageddon (Double CD)(Moon Ska Bur.)
Even when you're at the deepest bottom of the underground scene you have to realize that it is impossible to know everything, ...and we're not talking about a local band from Sheffield or Madrid, but I'm talking about genres!!! Where do you read articles about skabands? OK, I agree that skafans will know their stuff but once you're outside the scene it's like a big no man's land. I won't pretend that I'm a person who knows everything, at contrary... On this CD there are 31 bands and there isn't one I'm familiar with, and being an owner of most records on 2 Tone (the legendary label that brought skamusic, which is founded in the 60's, in the charts) I think that's a shame. But it's never too late to increase the damage, so here I'm in my room on a Saturday-night listening to all that unknown bands (...all of them are American bands) and even when there's no tequila around here this feels like a party! Summing up the bands who are on here would be nothing then a dull list, so let's keep it by saying that on this double-CD you can hear ska in

its most diverse style... There are the reggae-inspired tunes, there are the songs that are in old Bad Manners-style, there are those who include stuff like salsa, there is the "new-ska" (...I suppose that Rancid are examples of this...)...and I could go on and on, but it's much better to put on your black shoes and white stockings and shout those words : DOOO THE SKA!!! (CONTACT : MOON SKA EUROPE, PO BOX 184, ASHFORD, KENT, TN24 0ZS, U.K.)(No internet-info)

MONKEY BOY The aquatic ape theory (CD-single)(Lockjaw Records)
They say Monkey Boy are probably the strangest band in the U.K. That sort of descriptions is what you get when you're making music that can't be classified. On this third single you hear four songs which are presented in a robot's voice (...exactly..., Man Or Astro-Man-style) but the music itself is a weird combination from American-ish alternative music (Fugazi, No Means No), a bit of post-rock (Mogwai), the weirdness from Truman's Water and hardcore-guitars (most of the stuff on Lockjaw sounds a bit harder). Anyway, make of it what you want but on a track like "Journey to the god of mork rock" it's like you are confronted with a new style, just imagine what would happen if Ennio Morricone would compose his music with distorted guitars and you're halfway there. This is the ultimate proof that making "emotional noise" isn't the monopoly of Mogwai alone. Give them what they deserve...some recognition! (CONTACT : LOCKJAW RECORDS, 1 OAKLANDS, CRADLEY, MALVERN, WR13 5LA, U.K.) (www.lockjawrecords.co.uk) or (www.monkeyboy.co.uk)

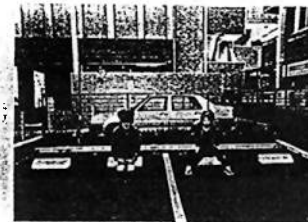
LOCKDOWN Step to the unknown (CD-single)(Lockjaw Records)
...and the Lockjaw-noise doesn't stop! After some releases on Household Name Records Lockdown ended up on Lockjaw and the reason must be more then just the "lock" their share in their names. They recently have completed a tour with both Tribute To Nothing and Stampin' Ground, so you know what to expect! Right in your face-noise rock without compromises although the most original part is that there is some hip-hop background in here, so if you're curious to hear a sort of Rage Against The Machine-music (in jouno-terms I have to call this "cross-over", not?) with De La Soul-parts you're at the right address. (CONTACT : see Monkey Boy)

NAIVE POP OR PETIT FOOL Compilationtape
The goal of Hirom Matsuda and Mashiro Nomura was quite clear : with their band they wanted to make pop that was both sensitive and a bit foolish...! Yes, this type of music can only be made in Japan as it's so kitsch that it is irresistible. A track like "Saturday Pops fuhrer" is like if Lush were voted to be a participant of the Eurovision Contest! When hearing this you wonder if this is made by Playmobile-toys or not...so cute it is!!! Naive Pop or Petit Fool's music has already reached the borders of Japan as they already make radiojingles for a radiostation in Australia! If you were saying "wow!" the first time you heard Pizacatto Five, you're going to say "woooooow!" when you hear Naive Pop or Petit Fool! Japanese pop rules... (CONTACT : MASAHIRO NOMURA, 1-1404 #4 203 NAKAHIRA, TENPAKU-KU NAGOYA CITY, AICHI-KEN, 468-0014 JAPAN)(www.interq.or.jp/guitar/naivepop)

JUSTIN HALE In formation (CD)(Daemon Records)



Ask most musicfans what's been the most innovative scene the last decade and they probably will say it's hip-hop. I surely have no problems accepting this if there weren't those "bad asses" around who take a longforgotten chart-single and yell some "yo yo's" over it...yes, Will Smith I'm talking about you! Hip hop has got to have original beats and listening to a hiphop album must be like getting in search of hundreds original things...and even if it's already been some time before I listened to some hip hop I'm glad this album responds to all my conditions that justify my appreciation. "In formation" is the debut of American white rappers Justin Hale and you can say this album represents hip hop in its political form (they probably never heard from them, but at times this sounded like Asian Dub Foundation) and artistic form (Nightmares on Wax or DJ Shadow). The sole bad thing was that it was a bit of a short album...but hey,



this is just a debut and already so much better then the usual "Hey bitch, suck my fucking dick"-stuff... (CONTACT : DAEMON RECORDS, PO BOX 1207, DECATUR, GA 30031, USA)(www.daemonrecords.com)

FASCIA Fascia (mini-CD)(Clock Wise Records)

There are times I really do regret I don't have a computer, you know... Take only this CD by Fascia! If you have a computer you can watch some short movies and hearing their music at the same time. But what happens to people like me who don't want their life being depended on a computer? Take your fantasy as a PC and create your own movies...!, and with music as such it's not that difficult as this is what people might call "soundscapes" but delivered in the best form! All songs are instrumentals and the back-ground can be everything (from dubreggae to drum 'n bass) while there is the constant use of typical shoe-gazing-guitars. Sad as it might be, I think most of you don't know 4-AD band Dif Juz, but if you do then I can say Fascia are a band as such! But then again it's not that important as others will hear bands like Bower's Electric, Autechre or Third Eye Foundation in here. All what is left to say is that this is just an other unknown pearl in the big sea the underground is! (CONTACT : see DAEMON RECORDS or CLOCK WISE RECORDS, 1611 MARLBROOK DR. NE, ATLANTA, GA 30307, USA)(www.clockwiserecords.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS Big Bang (CD)(Daemon Records)

I can't say if this sampler is free or not (but you risk nothing by asking...) but it certainly gives you an idea what Daemon Records is all about, a label that isn't punk, indie or dance but a label that releases all types of music. On this CD you hear ten bands you probably have never heard of and even if some of them works on my nerves (Jesus Christ Superstar, a band, really sound as annoying as that horrible music and New Mongrels is the type of country that will never make me a cowboy) but the rest of it is pretty good. And best bands on here were 6X (The Go Go's with a punkrock-attitude), Belloluna (the sort of dramapop that makes you cry), PH Balance (trip-hop), Rose Polezani (very PJ Harvey-ish folk rock) and The Rock *A* Teens who makes you wonder what has become of The Cramps. Ask for a copy! (CONTACT : see above, c/o Justin Hale)



BELLE DA GAMA Get your bearings (Taperelease)

As it's a band named after a novel by Salman Rushdie you can fear that this will be arty bollocks, but it isn't... It's rock/popmusic but seen through very special eyes! It's like Bradley Skaught (that's the man behind this band) is trying to avoid sounding like so many other American poprockbands by making it a bit more than 'pop' alone. Anyone who remembers The Lemonheads before Evan Dando went awol will know what I'm talking about... This is too pop for the alternative audience and too alternative for the pop audience, and so it's not that easy to find a public. Bradley's voice is sounding extremely similar to the one from Elvis Costello and luckily enough he doesn't use it that often for making boring singer-songwriter stuff. "Get your bearings" won't change your life but it still shows that there is plenty of talent to be found in the American alternative rockcircuit... (CONTACT : BELLE DA GAMA, C/O BRADLEY SKAUGHT, 1646A MCGEE AVE, BERKELEY, CA 94703, USA)(treesprite@earthlink.net)

AGENT STEEL Omega Conspiracy (CD)(Candlelight)

It's been since 1987 that Agent Steel released a record and back then they were amongst the greatest of the metalscene (they were part of a sort of metalboom that consisted of Megadeth, Exodus and Mercyful Fate who were named in one breath as they were signed to the Combat Label). Thirteen years later they're back and this time they're on Candlelight Records! This sounded like old-fashioned trash metal to my ears (...and that's not meant in a negative way!) as there are those trashing guitars combined with symphonic melodies (most of their tracks are about the lost city of Atlantis, and yes more than once there are influences from prog-rockbands). Pink Floyd with trashguitars is certainly a description that can be used. By the time you're reading this, the band are in the middle of an European tour, so check out your gig-guide! (CONTACT : LUNA PRESS & PUBLICITY, BERGSHOJDEN 42NB, 17445 SUNDBYBERG, SWEDEN)



(<http://www.candlelightrecords.co.uk>)

THE WAVE Odyssee (CD)(Own Release)

Can anything go wrong with a band's name like this? Well, although they're still unsigned they can say that they were welltomed as one of the revelations of the Wave und Gothik Treffen in Leipzig (and before you say "What's that?", you'll better know that this is the sort of Woodstock for gothfans and even I was never there myself I have friends who told me it has an audience from 20.000 people!!!). The Wave are making darkwave (early Death In June and In The Nursery) with German lyrics. The choice of singing in German is a right one as it gives the music some extra colour. Sure it all will have a deeper impact if you understand German but even when not you surely will notice the passion Andreas Von Wave (the man behind this band...and he is kind of obsessed by the Middle Ages, he even wrote a book about it!) has in his music. Somewhere it's a sad thing that soulmusic is used to describe the music from black artists in the 60's as I think SOUL is the right word to use here. Luckily enough there are the new technologies which gives the bands the opportunity to release earlier material on CD themselves, and so it happens that their debuttape "Lyrik" which has been earlier released in 1998 is available on CD as well. After having heard so much songs by this band I can only conclude that if bands like Lacrimosa, Goethes Erben or Das Ich can gain international succes with their German goth-sound then there surely must be a place for The Wave too! A brilliant tip for lovers of darkwave or neo-folk. (CONTACT : THE WAVE, C/O ANDREAS VON WAVE, HASE, PABLO-NERUDA-RING 84, 17235 NEUSTRELITZ, DEUTSCHLAND)

BRUCE ATCHISON Lagomorph 2 (Taperelease)

Things can be funny! Just before I decided to listen to this I had "Ralf and Florian" by Kraftwerk in my CD-player and by pure coincidence I noticed when opening the package that Bruce Atchison is a Canadian electronic music composer who started making electronic music since he got inspired by the early works of our friends from Dusseldorf! Well, what more can I say? Throughout the years Bruce started collecting several keyboards and that's something you can hear on this taperelease as this is electronic music at its most diverse. It's kind of strange that a band like Air (...and I like them a lot) are seen as geniuses while there are so many homeartists doing the same kind of stuff, but that's life like they say... All tracks on here have something to do with rabbits as each track is called "rabbit", but in other human languages. And hey...how great it was to see that the opening track was named "konijntje"...this is my language, you know!!! Besides his own music Bruce also runs a label that has home-made tapes from artists all over the world in his catalogue... (CONTACT : BRUCE ATCHISON, DOMINION DAY ENTERPRISES, 8403-145 AVE. NW, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T5E 2J1, CANADA)(E-mail : ve6xtq@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)

TESTUBE Bioplaza (CD)(Test)

There used to be a time that I really was into Electric Body Music but too many bands were just reproducing EBM-beats like heroes Front 242 and Nitzer Ebb and due to that I reached to the point at where I said "Why care?". But after that "boom" everything was brought back into the undergroundscene and now it looks like it's one of the most refreshing genres of last years... As far as I know Testube are quite obscure (all I know about it is that it is the musical project of one Jeff Danos, so don't expect any other details from me!) but this album shows you exactly how EBM has grown out of its own limited musical possibilities. Everything's on here...the old-classic EBM-beats, influences from people like Aphex Twin or Plaid who gave dancemusic a total new face, those typical distorted voices in pure Skinny Puppy-style, dancebeats (very New Order and 808 State at times!) that makes it all very accesible music, aggressive beats à la Wumpscut and I could go on and on... Music like this has only reached the alternative clubs and musiclovers who want something else... and as I'm sure you're one of them I only have one advice : try this!!! (CONTACT : TESTUBE RECORDINGS, PO BOX 554, ENGLEWOOD, CO 80151, USA) (<http://www.bioplaza.com>)(E-mail : testube@bioplaza.com) I have no idea if it still exists or not but on the CD-sleeve there was talk of a secret website (now it's not...!) at where you could download several remixes from this album. (<http://www.guillotinegraphics.com/thanks>)



BLINDER Mienakusuru (CD-single)(Own Release)



Blinder are a trio from New York and one reviewer described them as "jazz hardcore" and there you are! If it's noisy music no one can categorize you can bet your money that it comes from New York. This band's music is focused on the sexy female vocals from Megan Gass (she sounds like the twin sister from Cristina Martinez from Boss and musically they're like a raw version of Blonde Redhead. Raw is certainly the perfect word to use, it all may sound as a "noise-collage" but once you listened to it several times it's like everything's melt into one piece of "beautiful noise". They should have a full length album out by now, we'll let you know... (CONTACT : BLINDER, C/O MASON WENDELL, 603 JERSEY AVE 4th FLOOR, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07302, USA)(www.blinder.pair.com)

LITHOPS Demotape

They say people are too short of fantasies...! Well, read this!!! Yumi is a Japanese girl living in London and her housemate is a kitten! People have dreams and so have pussycats! The dream of Yumi's kitten is to own a fish farm but as things as such demands money, the poor cat has to buy every week tickets for the National Lottery. But just like so many others who seek some happiness into the world of gambling, all she do is lose... Realising that the cat will never have her dream fullfilled she became depressed... But then out of sudden Yumi decides it's time to cheer up her cat so she forms a band Lithops (formed with a British fiend and a robot named Sputnik) to cheer up the cat... It wasn't only the cat that was enthusiastic about the music. Other people liked it too and she was even asked to do the soundtrack for a short movie called "Go!Go!The Spankettes" which got shown at several filmfestivals all over the world. Well whether you believe it or not (the part about the soundtrack is absolutely true!) you have to admit that it is a beautiful history, not? And what about the music? Will it makes cats happy? Yeah, and not only them... This is rock 'n roll in the most cute way...a little bit like Shonen Knife, and I'm just not saying this cos they're Japanese as well... (CONTACT : YUMI TAKESHITA, 79 PAXTON ROAD, FOREST HILL, LONDON, SE23 2QG, U.K.)

MURRY THE HUMP Thrown like a stone (CD-single)(Shifty Disco)

Stupid name for a band, you say? Well, Murry The Hump were once the henchmen of Al Capone (...not that I knew this, so biogs can sometimes be informative too!). Things look bright for Murry The Hump. Not only this single was made Single Of The Week in the NME but they also were credited by Blur as being the best unsigned band of Britain (well actually they're from Wales, Aberystwyth to be more precisely... Wasn't that the place The Crocketts were coming from?) I can already see your smile when hearing they're recommended by Blur, but still much better then being tipped by Noel Gallagher as Blur likes their music a bit more adventurous. I really liked those guitars which were so Johnny Marr-ish (probably the main force behind The Smiths) and singer Matthew Evans sounded a bit like Thom Yorke...but he could avoid to sound like Radiohead. Nothing wrong with them, but the British musicscene needs original bands and Murry The Hump are...and they can write songs too! (CONTACT : SHIFTY DISCO, C/O CHLOE HORNER, 65 GEORGE STREET, OXFORD, OX1 2BE, U.K.) (www.shiftydisco.co.uk)

MANATEE Easy (CD-single)(Shifty Disco)

And there is more talent! Well, there was never lack of any talent...it were just the wrong bands that got hyped and being hailed as the saviours of rock 'n roll (...and by now you surely know who I'm talking about...) Fanzine-readers better do notice that this is NOT the Manatee from London (they probably don't exist anymore, but it were those teenage girls that sounded like Kenickie). This is the Manatee from Nottingham and hey...they sound like the Robin Hood's of music. They may steal things from long forgotten bands (especially that wall of noise Swervedriver once used to use or like the NME said : Six By Seven) but their stealings are for a good cause : giving us exciting music! It's a good sign that bands (others are Coldplay or more obscure The Vow) are making that type of indiemusic that gets a grip on your soul...

